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Sunnud - 1 - Milkeut Istimrar or Deed of Permanent Property Granted by The Right Honorable Edward Lord Clive Baron Clive of Walcot in the County of Salop and Baron Plassy of the Kingdom of Ireland - - Governor in Council of Fort St. George, on the part of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies, to Varajon Ramah Vanien Zemindar of Shevagerry

It is known to the Zemindars, Talookdars, Merassydars, Ryots, and all Cultivators of the land in the territories subject to the Government of Fort St. George, that from the earliest until the present period of time the Public assessment of the land Revenue has never been fixed; but that according to the established practice of asiatic Governments, the assessment of the Land Revenue has fluctuated without any fixed principles for the determination of the amount, and without any security to

1126

to the Zemindars, or other persons for the Continuance of a Moderate land tax. On the Contrary, frequent enquiries have been instituted by the ruling power, whether Hindoo or Mahomedan, for the purpose of augmenting the assessment of the land revenue; and it has been Customary to regulate such Augmentations by the enquiries and Opinions of the local Officers appointed by the ruling power for the time being, in the attainment of an increased Revenue on such foundations, it has been usual for the Government to deprive the Zemindars, and to appoint Persons on its Own account to the Management, of the Zemindaries, thereby reserving to the ruling power the implied right, and the actual exercise, of the proprietary possession of all lands whatever. It is Obvious that such a Mode of administration must be injurious to the Permanent prosperity of the Country, by Obstructing the progress of Agriculture, population, and wealth, and destructive to the Comfort of individual persons by diminishing the Security of personal freedom and of private property.

2nd. The British Government, impressed with a deep sense of the injuries arising to the

State

3

State and to its Subjects from the operation of such principles, has resolved to remove from its administration so fruitful a Source of uncertainty and disquietude; to grant to Zemindars and other Land-holders, their heirs, and succes., a permanent property in their land in all time to Come; to fix for ever a Moderate assessment of Public revenue on such lands, which shall never be liable to change under any Circumstance; to institute Courts of Judicature for the protection of these valuable rights; and to Secure to every description of its native subjects under the operation of fixed and defined laws, the free exercise of the religious institutions, and domestic usages of their ancestors.—

3.^d In Conformity to these principles the assessment of your Zemindary has been fixed from the Commencement of Fusly 1212 at the annual sum of Star Pagodas (16,000.) Sixteen thousand, which said sum of Star Pagodas (16,000) Sixteen thousand— shall be fixed, and is hereby accordingly declared by this Sunnud to be the permanent annual Jummah of your Zemindary payable in the Current Coin of the Province in fixed Monthly instalments, agreeably to the Separate Kistbundy signed by you—

4th. The Permanent assessment of the Land Tax on your Zemindary is exclusive of the revenue derived from the Manufacture and Sale of Salt, and Saltpetre; exclusive of the Sayer or duties of every description whether by Sea or Land, the entire administration of which the Government reserves to itself; exclusive of the Abkary or Tax on the Sale of Spiritous liquors, an[d] intoxicating drugs; exclusive of the excise wh[ich] is or may be levied on Commodities or articles of Consumption; exclusive of all Taxes personal and professional; as well as of those from Markets, Fairs, and Bazars; exclusive of Lakheraj lands (lands exempt from the payment of public revenue) and of all other alienated Lands paying a small Quit-Rent (which Quit-rent unchangeable by you is included in the assets of your zemindary) and exclusive of all lands and Russooms heretofore appropriated to the Support of police Establishments. The Government reserves to itself the entire exercise of its discretion in Continuing or abolishing, temporally or permanently, the articles of revenue included, according to the Custom and practice of the Country, under the several heads above stated. –

5th. You shall regularly pay in

all

all seasons the amount of the Permanent assessment above fixed: The remissions which have occasionally been granted according to the Custom of the Country on account of drought, inundation, or other Calamity of the season, shall now cease and never be revived; and if (which God forbid) you should fail to discharge your engagements, your Zemindary and your personal property shall be answerable for the Consequence of such failure.

6th. In this event your personal property will be liable to attachment in the first instance; and your lands will ultimately be liable to be sold and transferred from you for ever, for the payment of the public revenue; But under the Moderate terms of the assessment on your Zemindary, this event can never happen except in Consequence of your Own default, for the Court of Judicature will protect you against such an injury, unless warranted by your failure.

7th. You shall be at free liberty to transfer, without the previous Consent of Government, or of any other authority, to whomsoever you may think proper either by sale, gift

gift, or otherwise, your proprietary Right

the whole or in any part of your Zemindary; su

transfers of your Land shall be valid, and 6

recognized, by the Courts and Officers of

Government, provided they shall not be

repugnant to the Mahomedan or the Hindo

laws, or to the Regulations of the British

Government; but unless such Sale, gift

or transfer shall have been regularly register

=ed at the Office of the Collector, and unless

the Public assessment shall have been

previously determined, and fixed on such

separated portions of your estate by the

Collector, such sale, gift, or transfer

shall be of no legal force or effect; nor

shall such transaction exonerate you from

the payment of any part of the public land tax

assessed on your entire Zemindary previously

to such transfer; but your whole

Zemindary shall continue to be answerable

for the total land Tax, in the same Manner

as if no such transaction had occurred.

8th In the event of the sale of any part

of your Zemindary for the liquidation of arrears

of the assessment, or in satisfaction of the decree

of

7

of a Court of Judicature, or in the event of the transfer of any part of your Zemindary by gift, sale, or otherwise, you shall furnish the Collector with true & Correct accounts of your entire Zemindary, and of the portion of your Zemindary to be so separated, for a period not less than the three years preceding such sale or transfer, in Order that the due proportion of the public revenue may be fixed thereon. The assessment to be settled on the separated parts of your lands, shall always, bear the same proportion to the actual Produce of the separated portion, as the total permanent Jummah on your Zemindary bears to the actual produce of the whole Zemindary: So that if the accounts to be furnished by you should be Correct, no partial assessment can happen: nor any increase of the fixed Jummah be ever made, under whatever changes or improvements your interests or your pleasure may lead you to introduce into the Zemindary.

9thly Although you shall have free right & liberty to transfer by sale, gift, or otherwise, any part of your Zemindary not repugnant to the Regulations of Government,

yet

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yet it shall not be Competent for you, nor for any Zemindar to form any part of your lands into a separate estate paying its Summah directly to Government, unless the public assessment on such separate estate shall amount to the annual sum of five hundred star Pagodas (500) and upwards -

10th. In Order that you may at all times be enabled to Comply with the Conditions of the 8th. article of this Sunnud, by which you are bound to furnish true and Correct accounts of your Zemindary when required by the Collector, you shall support the regular and established number of Curnums in the several villages of your zemindary, The Curnums shall be appointed from time to time by you; and shall Obey all regular Orders issued by your authority but they shall not be liable to be removed from their Offices except by the Sentence of a Court of Judicature in the event of your having, or of your under-farmers, tenants, or Ryots, having Cause of Complaint against the Curnum of any Village for a breach of duty, you shall be at liberty to institute at your Own peril a suit in the Adawlut

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Adaulut of the Zillah, for the purpose of bringing such Curnum to trial and punishment but in the event of your dispossessing a Curnum of his Office without such previous regular process, you shall be liable to make such satisfaction for the injury as the Adaulut of the Zillah may decree, where a Curnum may be dismissed from his office by the Sentence of a Court of Judicature, you shall in the first instance select a Successor from the family of the last incumbent, provided any Member of that family shall be Capable of the duty of Curnum, but if no member of it shall be Capable of discharging that duty, you shall exercise your discretion in the appointment of a proper Person, The Name of the Person appointed to succeed shall be reported to the Collector —

11th. The Government having charged itself with the Maintenance of the police of the country will defray the entire expense of that Establishment, you shall nevertheless aid and assist the Officers in apprehending and securing offenders of all description; and you shall enquire and give notice to the Magistrate of all Robbers or disturbers of the public peace

who

whom may be found, or who may seek refuge in your zemindary — 10

12th You shall enter into engagements with your Ryots either for a rent in Money or in Kind; and shall within ~~any~~ a reasonable time grant to each Ryot a pottah or Cowle clearly defining the amount to be paid by him and explaining every Condition of engagement: and you shall Grant, or Cause to be granted regular receipts to the Ryots for all discharges in Money or in Kind made by them to you, or for your account. if after the expiration of a reasonable period of time from the execution of your Cabooleat you shall neglect, or shall refuse to Comply with the demands of your under farmers, or Ryots, for the Pottahs and receipts abovementioned, you shall be liable to be sued in the Adaulut of the Zillah, and you shall also be liable ~~with~~ to such damages as may be decreed by the adaulut to the Complainant —

13th The foregoing Conditions Contain

11

Contain an abstract of the Obligations and Duties which you shall incur, and of the rights which you have acquired under the New Constitution erected for the Security, protection, and prosperity of the subjects of the British Government: But for the enlargement of that Constitution, and for the improvement of the Condition of the People, the Governor in Council will continue from time to time to enact such Regulations, as experience may suggest, or the progress of human affairs render necessary, such Regulations will be administred by independent Judges in constituted Courts of Judicature, Governing their decisions by the laws only; the decrees of those Courts will be founded on the regulation of Government, printed, published, and translated for the information, and security of its Subjects; and on the institutes of the Hindoo or Mahomedan Laws, which are also open to the enquiry, of all persons, the proceedings of the adaulut will be held in open Courts accessible to persons of every description, all parties will be at liberty to attend to their own interest by their

presence

presence in the Courts during such Proceedings; or to employ their Vakeels with such instructions regarding the Mode of prosecution or defence, as may appear to the Most eligible to themselves; the Sentence of the Courts will be pronounced in the same public Manner, and executed by Civil Authority without the interposition of Military force, the Collectors and other public Servants of the Government will be compelled to appeal to the Courts of Judicature for the adjudication of all cases, in which by virtue of their Offices they may be parties, and finally, the greatest practicable degree of Security has been extended to the Native subjects of the British Government by the establishment of a gradation of appeals from the Zillah Court to the provincial Court and from the provincial Court to the Court of Sudder Adaulut at the presidency; and in the last resort from the Court of Sudder Adaulut to the Governor General in Council of Bengal —

13

14th. - Being therefore sensible of the benefits Conferred on you, by this institutions, and Confident of enjoying the fruits of your industry, you shall be punctual in your engagements with Government, you shall Conduct yourself with good faith towards your Ryots, whose prosperity is inseparably Connected with your Own; you shall treat them with tenderness, encourage them to improve and extend the Cultivation of the land, and lay the foundations of your Own happiness in the permanent prosperity of your Zemindary -

15th. - Continuing to perform the above Stipulations, and to perform the duties of allegiance to the British Government, its Laws, and Regulations, you are hereby authorized and empowered to hold in perpetuity to your heirs, Successors and assigns at the permanent assessment herein Named, the Zemindary of Shevagerry

Given in Fort St. George this Twenty Second day of April 1803.

1803. by and in the Name of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council.

(Signed) " Clive

" Wm. Petrie

" John Chamier

Entered in the Secretary's Office
By Order of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council –

(Signed) Edw. C. Greenway
Secretary to Govert.

To William Petrie Esqre

President and Members of the Board of Revenue

Gentlemen,

Having deliberately considered your letter to me of the 6th Instant in regard to the future Government of the Poligars, and adopted every necessary arrangement for carrying your orders into effect, I think it prudent, upon a subject of such Importance, to explain at this period the sense in which I interpret your Instructions, in order that no delay may arise in the completion of them, by the necessity of referring to you after the Poligars have been assembled—

In the third Paragraph of your letter you intimate to me "We enclose a Proclamation which you will publish prior "to, but not until you are prepared to put in execution the orders for "resuming and collecting the Desha Cawul fees due from the Circar Lands, to the Poligars and all other established Collections arising therefore heretofore made by the Poligars—

And the resolutions of His Lordship in Council are as follows

First— That the Tinnivelly Poligars are relieved from all Military Service, and Police duties, & that the Company have charged themselves, as well with Military Protection, as with the administration of the general Police of the Country—

Secondly. That the Poligars are consequently hereby divested of all interference, whatsoever in the Circar Lands—

Thirdly That the Desha Cawul fees heretofore paid from the Circar Lands to the Poligars, and all other established Collections, arising therefore, whether from Maniam Lands, or other Sources, are resumed from the Poligar, and are to be collected by the Companys Collector" The different tenures by which the Poligars have connected th themselves with the Circar Lands are five—

First. By the Deshacawul, as it is generally understood It consists of a fixed annual payment in Money called Vadua Woondigool, of certain allotments of Punjeh and Nunjeh Land in every Cawul Village from which the Poligar draws

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the Government Share or Tax - of fees upon Ploughs - of Maniums levied in his Cawel District - of Taxes on Looms, Bazars & Common Labor
Secondly. By the Cawel Puttum - This consists of Lands which the Poligar holds under the Cowl of some Amildar for which he pays to the Circar for every Cullum of Nunjeh ~~Seed~~ Sown, three Cottahs -
Thirdly - By the Cutgootwa -

These are Lands held at a favorable Rent under a written Cowle -
Fourthly By the Cumut -

This is the Cultivation carried on by the Poligars in the Circar Villages of which they have purchased or forced the Right from the Inhabitants -
Lastly. The Soonta Gramum -

Whole Villages which the Poligars have obtained by purchase or Force from the Circar and which they designate by the name of Soonta Gramum, (meaning own private Villages) in common with all the other Villages composing what is called their Pollams -

I beg therefore to be informed whether in the resumption "of the Dethacawel fees heretofore paid from "the Circar Lands to the Poligars, and all other established Collec"-tions arising therefrom whether from Manium Lands or " other Sources" I am to include

The Cowle Puttam - The Cut Goottaga - The Cumet, and the Soonta Gramum -

Though I ask for your instructions upon these severally in order to avoid the possibility of acting contrary to the intentions of Government on this important Occasion, yet I have little doubt you will desire me to consider the three first as part of the established Collections arising from the Circar Lands to the Poligars now to be resumed, because otherwise the connexion betw

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the Circar and Poligars would still most closely subsist—

It is relative to the Usurpations held by the Poligars under the designation of Soonda Gramum that I am desirous of a particular explanation of your intentions—These usurpations are not unfrequently in the midst of the Circar Villages, & until the notion of their belonging to the Circar is done away the Poligars cannot be considered divested of all interference in the Circar Lands. To cut of their interference entirely is however one of the resolutions of the Proclamation & its execution will be apprehended by the Poligars, even to the resumption of these usurped Villages, unless they receive some assurance to the Contrary—The points therefore for your consideration seem to be—What general principle is to guide me if the resumptions are to be made—[2] What is to be the nature of the assurance of the Poligars if the Villages are not to be resumed—

[1] Though I have considered very maturely what principle might be established in making these resumptions, if it be determined that they are not to remain with the Poligars—I confess that I am at a loss what to recommend—If no title & were to be deemed sufficient unless actually confirmed or bestowed by the Nabobs or preceedings Rulers of the Tinnevelly Province, I believe that no Poligar could substantiate his claim to an eigth of the Villages that he holds—like all other Feudatories they availed themselves of the distraction of the times to extend their acquirements as opportunities opened to them. Sometimes by open Force, at others by intrigue, and more commonly by the political concession of His Highnesses Servants—

Adverting therefore to the Difficulties which obstruct Enquiries into the Validity of landed Titles in a Country where

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where no law exists material diminution of the Poligar resources by the other proposed Resumptions, and to the avowed intention of Government to form as soon as circumstances will admit a permanent Settlement of Jummah with the Poligars for their respective Lands as Zemindars on Just and reasonable Principles: I am anxious for your permission to calm the apprehensions which the Poligars will feel in regard to these usurpations by an assurance that the pretensions which long uninterrupted Occupancy has given to these Villages will not be invaded, but that all the Possessions they held when assigned to the Company by the Nabob will be formally secured to them under the Company's Faith—

(Signed) S. Lushington
Collr.

Ramnad
3d. January 1800

To William Petrie Esqr.
President & Members of the Board of Revenue

Gentlemen,

All the principal Tinnivelly Poligars having in obedience to my Summons assembled at this place, my arrangements for the resumption of the Desharawul &c. having been compleated, and Major Macaulay having issued yesterday morning the Proclamation of which I enclose a Copy, I immediately summoned the Shevagheny Poligar to my Tent to explain to him the nature of those reforms which it would be my duty immediately to carry into effect—

The manner in which I executed your instructions particularly and personally to explain to the Poligars the whole force of His Lordships Orders will be best understood by a relation of the Conversation which passed with the Poligar of Shevagheny. After presenting him with the proclamation

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apprized him that the Resolution which it contained were of the last importance to the future Welfare of himself, and his Children, and though it made known the irrevocable determination of Government immediately to deprive him of privileges and usurpations which he might have considered that he would be suffered to enjoy, yet it obviously ameliorated his condition by giving stability to the possessions which would remain with him. It was possible however that design-ing Advisers who had only their own temporary Interests in view might attempt to misrepresent the objects of the proclamation or which was now to be published and carried into effect - and as he, weakly acting under such advice, might provoke his own destruction, it was for his good to take a retrospect of his past Condition. & compare it with what it would be if he was hereafter obedient. I told him I knew it was not the habit of the Poligars to direct their thoughts or enquiries far beyond their own times, but he could not be ignorant that many of the Villages which he now possessed had been obtained within a Short Period of Years by violence or fraud - But, though such were the unjustifiable means by which they had to deprive him of these Villages their views extended no further than effectually to crush that Spirit of turbulent Encroachment in the Poligars which had hitherto been so fatal to the peaceable Inha-bitants of the Country and Subversive of all & Authority - It might be known to him that the Conditions upon which each Poligar was understood to hold his Pollam were to pay a Money Tribute to the Sovereign to attend with an armed force when required, and to perform the Watching Service of the Country - These were the terms by which they were bound when under the Nabob - But under His Highnesses Government, the Poligars had no Surety that even though they sincerely performed the conditions of their tenures

today

today they might not by the intrigue of their Neighbours, or the Corruption of his Amildars, be dispossessed tomorrow — this uncertainty generated Suspicions and resentments which led to frequent scenes of Blood Shed between His Highnesses Troops and the Poligars, and amongst each other, and it was the desolation occasioned by these disorders, which caused the transfer of himself and other Poligars to the Company's Authority eight years ago — It was I informed him at one time hoped that the Poligars who had felt the power of the Company's Government to punish the rebellious through the Detachment under Colonel Fullarton, and who had experienced its Justice during the Management of Mr Irwin and Mr Irin would remain steady to their allegiance, and sincerely perform the Conditions upon which they were allowed to hold their Pollams — But it was soon experienced that instead of protecting the Country, the Poligars plundered it in every direction; that instead of paying a small Tribute with thankfulness for the forbearance which did not take more, they were constantly in arrear — and that so totally insensible were they to the mildness of the Company's Government that they were continually provoking its resentments, by disobeying whatever Orders might be given — That such indeed was the Audacity to which they had arrived that in defiance of all the interdictions I had sent to them, several of them only a few Months ago combined their armed rabble to dispossess him of his Pollam and place his Son in possession of it — Such contempt of the Company's Power left them no Choice, but immediately to assemble a Detachment to punish the Rebellious and subsequently to frame such Regulations as should effectually prevent the recurrence of such Disorders —

That the first effect of assembling the Troops under Major Bannerman was to relieve himself from the

dangers

danger which threatened him and in little more than a month the principal Authors of such Rebellious Measures had paid the forfeit of them by their Heads, whilst others less guilty, had been expelled their Pollams and were now subsisting on the Company's Bounty—

But amongst those who merited punishment it was not to be forgotten, that his Son stood one of the first—By his rebellious conduct he had absolutely forfeited his Head, but his Father's intercessions in his behalf were heard, and if in his future life, he was mindful of the gratitude due for such Mercy he would be considered entitled to the favor of Government—

The Poligar here rose sensibly affected by what had been said to him, and expressed his humble thanks for this Assurance. I then informed him that I could not on this important occasion omit to advise him as he valued the future prosperity of his Son, to impress him with principles of attachment to the Company's Government and educate him as a Man of business that when he himself was no more, he might not be again mis-led from his Allegiance by designing Men, but fill the Situation he was destined for with Credit & advantage to himself.

That in remembering the ignominious End of Catabomma Naig, he must see the inevitable Consequence of a Similar Conduct, and in adverting to the distruction of all the Poligars Forts, to the prohibition under pain of Death against carrying Arms, and to the whole course of the measures lately adopted in these Countries, himself and his Son must have been convinced of the intention of Government, thoroughly to change the Condition of the Poligars—

What that change was to be, he would

nor

now understand from the Proclamation, which having been previously translated. I then caused to distinctly and deliberately read to him, stopping occasionally in the most important parts to be satisfied that he did not mistake its meaning –

When the reading of the Proclamation was finished I informed him that such were the resolutions of Government in which there could be no change, He would accordingly understand that the Company henceforth exonerated him from the Military Service, and watching Duty he was hitherto bound to perform and therefore with the most unquestionable Justice they immediately assumed a part of the Revenue which he had been allowed to enjoy for the Expences of these Services –

That in conformity with these resolutions I should this day dispatch proper Officers to take possession of all the Dethaewul Collections, Maunium Lands, Cummut & Goolgoodies hitherto enjoyed by him in the Circar Lands and it would therefore be necessary that he send particular Orders to the Monigars and Sumperdies wherever employed by him in the Service to render their Accounts to the People I employed to receive charge of them, and to afford, without any equivocation, or reluctance, whatever Information might be required from them – All the Sherogars and Peons wherever dispersed in the Circar Lands must be also informed that if any of them were seen in any of the Dethaewul Villages one day after my Servant had given them a written Notice to withdraw they would be seized and severely punished –

I then proceeded to inform him that the other part of the instructions with which I was charged would be more agreeable to his Feelings; and it was to myself very

Satisfactory

Satisfactory that they were of this nature: for I was always willing to meet the wishes of the Poligars whenever it could be done with a proper regard to the Company's Authority and Interests, and the welfare of the Inhabitants under him _ In the Proclamation which I had just read to him it was stated to be the intention of Government to form as soon as Circumstances will admit a permanent Settlement of Jummah with the Poligars for their respective Lands as Zemindaries on just and reasonable principles.

In order that he might fully understand the benefits which the execution of this intention would confer upon him, it was necessary again to remind him that nearly the whole of the Villages he now holds were originally acquired by Violence and Fraud_ That his former Sovereign the Nabob never bound himself by an Agreement or Sunnud not to deprive him of them whenever he chose; that his annual Payments remained always to be fixed by his arbitrary Will; and I desired him particularly to consider what would have been the Conduct of the Nabob, or any other Sovereign, if after crushing a rebellion amongst the Poligars, and destroying their Forts, he had possessed that power which the Company now have of assuming the whole of their Pollams, could there be a doubt that he would have began by seizing his Person and confiscating his Pollam _

But that was not the Conduct which the Company meant to pursue _ From the enlightened Principles of their Government he was about to receive a blessing he could never have hoped for under any other, his Pollam was to be secured to him under a Sunnud beyond the power of any Person to take any part of it away from him: The assessment he was to pay was to be fixed for ever, and however extensive might be the Fruits of his own good Management and Industry, no increase of payment

would

would ever be demanded from him or from his Children. To that effect the Company's Faith would be pledged in the most public and Solemn manner, and the only conditions to be required from him, were that greatful for the pardon of his Son, and for the protection he has already and will hereafter receive; he remain in obedience to the Company and is mindful of that justice which is due to the Inhabitants under him. After I had concluded these Observations the Poligar continued Silent, and that I might judge what impression they had made upon him, I expressed my Willingness to hear any Remarks he wished to make. He replied "What can I say the loss is great to me, "but as such are the Orders of Government. I must submit to them "chearfully and they will protect me – My Conduct has always been "according to the Company's Orders, and will continue so" –

A part of his answer was, Informed him a proof of his good understanding that the unalterable resolutions of Government had been communicated to him, and a cheerful acquiescence was the only Path to Honor and Protection – In regard to his former Conduct I did not wish again to make a reference to it – because there was so much to condemn, and so little to approve in it – That I was however willing to attribute past Errors to the pernicious influence of that incendiary Mooply Vaneen, and his late actions, which had received the approbation of His Lordship in Council, to the free bent of his own inclination and the judicious advice of his Manager Arnachellum –

The Man being present, and having much influence with the Poligar; I thought it a proper occasion to impress upon his Mind the urgent necessity of confirming by his Advice the proper professions of obedience which his Master had expressed, warning him that if the Poligar by acting with insin-

-cerity

-cerity should provoke his own destruction. I should know to whom in a great Measure to attribute it -

But I had confidence that his conduct would be very different. And as an Earnest of what might be expected from a future ready Obedience to the Company's Authority, I had much pleasure in now presenting the Poligar by the instructions of Government, with the Jewels of Sancaralingum, to mark their approbation of his Conduct in complying with the orders of Major Bannerman, and further in delivering to him Sunnud for the Villages of Kalagapery, Perthivpollam - & Davysawmiporam which Government had from the same Motives been pleased to grant to him, and which would be henceforth considered a part of his Pollam -

These Marks of approbation seemed to give the Poligar satisfaction and having desired him to retire, and write the necessary Orders to his Servants to deliver up the Desh-acawel &c.a to my People, they were accordingly prepared and delivered to me -

The Poligar of Etteapoor being called in, I informed him it was very agreeable to me that in conveying to him the Orders of Government, in regard to the past Conduct, and future Situation, it was not necessary for me to use that language of Reprehension, which Justice would compel me to apply to many of the other Poli-gars on the contrary, I had the instructions of His Lordship in Coun-cil to express his Approbation of his late behaviour and zealous Com-pliance with Major Bannermans Orders and to confer upon him the Village Shevanaugaporam as a mark of that approbation - That I had accordingly much pleasure in presenting him with a Sunnud authorizing him "to take immediate possession of the Village

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The Poligar made suitable Acknowledgements for this favour, and then I explained to him exactly in the way I have done to the Poligar of Shevagherry what was to be his future condition, when I had concluded he made his professions of obedience, but observed that the Desharawul & Maunniums had been for years in his Possession, that if they were taken from him the meanest of the People would no longer respect him - that his own Conduct had never been refractory, that on the contrary I had expressed to himself my approbation of his obedience - in short that he hoped some exceptions might be made in his favor -

To this I replyed that nothing could be more imprudent on his part than to court an investigation of the Title by which he had enjoyed the Desharawul and Maunniums, because such an Enquiry would necessarily be extended to the Right by which he held the whole of his Villages and the result of it, but proving the far greater part to be usurpations from the Circar, would be to strip him of the whole of his Pollam - In fact therefore, the resolutions of Government were more favorable than the Poligars had any claim to expect, they were, however founded upon those Principles of Moderation and liberal Justice which had always governed the Conduct of the Company towards those dependant upon them, and from him who suffered so little by the new arrangements, I did not expect to hear any Objections that his apprehension of a diminution of respect in the Conduct of the Inhabitants towards him was erroneous, for no respect was worth his consideration, which did not proceed from a Sense of his humanity, and Justice, and these qualities he had still an Ample field to exercise in the extensive estate left in his Possession - that in reply to the reference he had made to his past Conduct, as a motive for making an exception in

his

his Favour, I could only assure him that it had afforded both Major Bannerman and myself much pleasure to report his Zeal to our Superiors, and confer upon him in consequence so substantial a mark of his Lordships approbation as the Villages of Shevanadigaporam, but his desire of being excepted from the general arrangements could not possibly be attended to, for whatever confidence might be reposed in his Fidelity and Obedience yet it would be in direct contradiction to the whole Spirit of the resolution of Government to permit any Poligar to have any longer interference in the Circar Lands, or to leave the peace of the Country liable to be again disturbed by any individual - such being the System which the Company's Government had thought proper to establish, the best proof he could give of his good understanding was sincerely to express his perfect acquiescence in what could undergo no change

expression. To this the Poligar replied, that he hoped the expression of what had arisen in his Mind on this important occasion had given no offence, that he well knew the duties of Submission, and was convinced the Company would cherish the obedient & amongst whom he should continue to be the first - I expressed my Confidence in his professions directed him to retire, and prepare the necessary Orders for his Servants to transfer the Charge of the Detharawul to my People -

The Poligar of Wookmally was now summoned to him I repeated the explanations which I had given to the Poligar of Ettiapoor, and his observations after he had heard the whole, were the same as that Poligars, it is therefore unnecessary to detail them, or my Answers - But the case of the Poligar of Chocumpetty who was next called was different from all other Poligars: on referring to the Records of my Station I found the following letter addressed to them by Mr Powney in Feby 1796.

To

To the Poligar of Chocumputty 16th February 1796

The representation which you delivered to me having been submitted to the Right Honble the Governor in Council of Madras, who is determined upon all occasions to uphold the just rights of those who may have been injured and considering that it is an act of Justice that you be reinstated in the Pollam of Chocumputty, of which you have been unjustly deprived — I have received Orders that you be restored to your former Situation of Poligar and you are by an instrument which accompanies ~ restored accordingly — You must be convinced that in thus restoring you to your former Situation, the Governor in Council has been solely actuated by a sense of the justice of your Claims thereto; You will therefore previous to your leaving this place enter into a Muchilka, that you will whenever you are called upon, readily comply with such Salutary and necessary Arrangements as may hereaf=ter be proposed to you, which will give stability to the Affairs of your Pollam, secure the happiness and prosperity of the Inhabitants as well as insure yourself an indisputable right to it —

At present it is not a fitting time for you to enter into a Muchilka, but you will be summoned hereafter to execute one —

The one that is now required of you is only intend=ed to be a general one —

Extract of a Muchilka executed by the Poligar of Chocumputty.

I Vella Tawen being fully impressed with a proper and greatful Sense of the Company's Justice in reinstating me in the Pollam of Chocumputty, do hereby engage myself to abide to such conditions as the Government of Madras may think proper to propose for the salutary and necessary Management of the affairs of my Pollam —

Having

Having read this Document to the Poligar it only remained for me to apprize him of the nature of those Salutary Arrangements which were now to be introduced into the affairs of his Pollam; I accordingly explained to him the principles of the Proclamation in the fullest manner in the way I had done to the other Poligars, and the whole manner and professions of the Poligar perfectly corresponded with that Character of Fidelity and obedience to the Company for which he has ever been distinguished —

The other principal Poligar Toomchy Naig of Paryore having fallen Sick since his arrival here could not yesterday attend. I therefore next summoned the Lesser Poligars of Pawally, Manascottah, Sorunday, Attengurra, Maniachy, Mailmanday, Collapuly, Chennelgoody, Talawencottah, Nadavacoorchy and Alagapoory, and explained to them in the manner I had done to the other Poligars the nature of that change now to be introduced in their Condition, and I did not allow them to retire to write the orders to their Servants, directing the relinquishment of these Resumptions before I had fully impressed them that in sincere obedience they would find advantage and protection, in different Conduct, Disgrace & Ruin

The Lesser Poligars of Awadiapoor, Sundyoor, Cadumboor, Woorcaud, Singumputty, Yailmadeh have not yet arrived; but I have not on that account delayed the resumption of their Deshacawel &ca. in common with the rest. the measures which I have adopted shall be explained to you at the first leisure moment. in the mean while I trust your Board will be satisfied with this relation of the manner in which I have executed the first part of the important arrangements, entrusted to me and that you will be assured my utmost Zeal has been and will be exerted to bring the whole to a Satisfactory Issue —

(Signed) S. Lushington Collr.

Palimcotta 22d. January 1800.

William Petrie Esqr.

President &c. Members of the Board of Revenue

Gentlemen,

In my letter to you of the 22d Instant I detailed the progress of my arrangements for the Assumption of the Deshacawul &c from the Tinnevelly Poligars who had in obedience to my Order assembled at this Place: my motives for summoning them to Pallimcurra were the impossibility of forming a Satisfactory Settlement of this Province in any Situation more advanced to the Westward, the variety of important points for adjustment in the Sequesterd Pollams, to which this place is in close vicinity, & the extreme unhealthiness of the Western Pollams, at this Season of the Year had also some weight with me - the result of assembling them here I am happy to inform you has perfectly corresponded with the expectation I had formed of its expediency, for the greater distance of the Poligars from their Pollams has given facility to my Servants in making the resumptions; it has enabled me already to conclude a Settlement in two thirds of the Talooks of Ramnad with the Head Inhabitants, upon an increase of at least five Pr Cent upon my Predecessors nominal Engagements for 1207. F.S. & by frequent Communications with the Ryots of the Sequesterd Countries I have been enabled to fix the Shares of the Inhabitants & the taxes of Government upon principles of Justice to both - the details of the Ramnad Settlement, my report upon the Revenue of the last Year, the nature of my arrangements in the Sequesterd Pollams I shall have the honor to lay before you so soon as the present press of duty is diminished - My Instructions for the Assumption of the Deshacawul are enclosed in this letter, & I apprehend no difficulties to a full Compliance with them - To the several Tahsildars I allotted such Sibbendy as appeared necessary, & the Deshacawul &c of the several Pollams have

been

been apportioned to the different Tahsildars, according to the extent & locality in the manner specified in the enclosed Statement — In this arrangement I have attended as much as possible to economy, consistent with the proper discharge of the watching Service throughout so extensive a Country —

In my Report to your Board upon the Tinnivelly Poligars of the 20th August last I had the honor to state to you that though I had procured some Statements of the Poligar Revenues I did not then conceive it necessary to submit them to you; that in the present fullness of the Poligar power no accurate Accounts of their resources could be reasonably expected for it had long been as much a principle amongst them to suppress every knowledge of their ancient privileges as it had been to add to them by every act of fraud and violence — that those which had been before submitted to you were however sufficiently correct to manifest how much the turbulence & Arrogance of the Poligars was to be attributed to their overgrown extent; that when some progress had been made in effecting that reform which was so imperiously demanded these Statements would of course be scrupulously investigated, but enquiry upon such points in their present licencious State would not only be now improfitable, but obstruct future research by creating a greater degree of caution in concealing and destroying all authentic documents —

The time which has elapsed since the successful conclusion of the Military operations against the Poligars has not been sufficient to collect authentic information of their resources, in submitting to you the enclosed Statement of their revenues it is therefore impossible that I can pledge myself for its particular accuracy though from the frequent & extended enquiries I have made in

order

order to amend its errors it may be considered sufficiently correct for regulating the temporary Settlement of the present Year - Your Board will observe that it embraces every reputed Cate & present Source of Revenue to the Poligars, & there is a column shewing in what degree the latter ought in my judgement to be now additionally assessed - to these I have annexed such short remarks as the particular circumstances of each Poligar seemed to require -

The Poligars having been relieved from all obligation to retain any armed Force, the Company might proceed with the clearest Right to assess them in the manner all other Zemindars are made to contribute to the Resources of the State - But though the Justice of demanding from them a Peshcush upon the Zemindary principle fixed by the Court of Directors is unquestionable, yet upon grounds of policy & moderation it does not appear to me that this is the proper period. The Eyes of all the Southern Tributaries are at this Moment attentively fixed upon the issue of our negotiations with the Tinnivelly Poligars & it seems to me desirable that they should not fancy they have a plea for opposing a troublesome Resistance to any Measures of Reform that may be meditated amongst them as yet they have no example of the extent of the projected arrangements; they have seen that within the last five months the Company have destroyed their Forts and disarmed them & have now begun to deprive them, of a part of their long possessed privileges & Lands & though the proclamation assures them the reform extends no further, yet until the permanent Sunnud has been actually granted a suspicion that their entire removal is the ultimate intention cannot by any present assurances be driven from their Minds - such are the motives which suggest a moderate assessment of the Tinnivelly Pollams in the present Year, as far as that Assessment may be supposed to

have

have effect on the Conduct of other Tributaries, but the considerations which attached to the Poligars themselves are more entitled to attention —

So much has been said of their Spirit of In=dependance, false Pride, Ignorance & Profligacy, that it would be super=fluous to dwell any longer upon these essential features of their Cha=racter; these Vices are obviously chargeable upon the nature of their former Government & though their Insolence & Ostentation have been succeeded within a few Months by a fearful submission & apparent abandonment of all former ideas of independance, yet knowledge, to resist the suggestions of bad advice; to see the ruinous effects of their former idleness and extravagance & thence the necessity of becoming prudent Managers of their Estates must be the fruit of much more time, & Experience: Consistent with the avowd intention of Government that the Poligars are to enjoy their Estates in peace and Safety like other Jemindars it has therefore appeared to me indispensably necessary to relinquish the general Principle of Jemindary Assessment in the present Year, & by fixing a lower Jumma inspire the Poligars, with the strongest motive for paying some attention to their own Affairs, the facility with which they will then be certain of discharging their Engagements — It is upon this prin=ciple of indulgence that the Jumma I have proposed for the principal Pollams is formed — It is more a Subject of regret than disappoint=ment to me that I am not able on this Occasion to Submit to you any accounts from Tinnevelly Cutcher of the resources and assessments of the Pollams in former years but the Records of the loose and Corrupt management which has prevailed that Province Since the time of Isuff Cawn, accepting the Short intervals of assumption by the Company make it often difficult to distinguish bitrouen the produce and collections and the assessments are So entirely without consistency

consistency or regard to the comparative resources of each Pollam that they bear the strongest confirmation to the general assertion that the private Nazzers greatly ex=ceeded the Peshcush.

In compliance with your Instructions to me to lay before you with as little delay as possible an arrangement for the Instatement of the Shatoor Polygar on the principles prescribed by Government I have been for some days past engaged in communication with the head In=habitants and the public Servants of the Pollam to enable me to pass an opinion upon the principles of Mr. Harriss Report which were so materially impeached by my Predecessor.—

In regard to the extent of Land capable of Cultivation Mr Harriss Statement is unquestionably correct and there can be no doubt that if sufficient water could be commanded and the number of Men and Cattle now in the Pollam, were always in an effective State that the produce would be equal to his Estimate but unless the Rains fall abundantly and due in Season and unless the Men and Cattle continue in health of course the cultivation declines considerable allowance therefore should be made for these Circumstances in the Estimate of Seed annually to be Sown.

The produce of that Seed twelve Cottahs for one Sown is a proper average.—

The price of each Cottah is established by Mr Harriss at 13 fanams this Estimate is formed upon the solid test of the last ten years experience and would be a very proper rate if the produce were not in future to be more than it hitherto has been; as the Cultivation of the Pollam will be increased by the Repairs of the Tanks at least one third more than it has been for the last ten years, the very circumstance of 13 having been the average during

that

that period is an incontrovertible reason why it should be re=
=duced in estimating the Value of the Pollam under the proposed
increased Cultivation from this Consideration eleven & a half
fanams appears to me the proper average upon this Subject
Mr Jackson has stated an extreme case; the price of Grain
at Madura is not a fair Criterion, for there is no part of
these Countries where it is equally cheap.—

If the average of 11½ be adopted instead of
13 it makes a reduction in the Value of the Pollam under every
advantage of Improved Cultivation of

In every other Respect the Estimate appears
to me to be perfectly fair; and the Measure for bringing
it to the test of experience the Repairs of the Tanks ought
not to be a day delayed, for they are becoming worse every
season, and are at present so shallow and the Banks so moul=
=dered away that they require to be thrice filled to bring
the Grain to protection. In no other situation than one
immediately under the Mountains could this be reasonably
expected; and no other Cause could have supported the
revenues against the years of neglect which they have
suffered from experiencing a more rapid decline.

The State of this Pollam when I received charge
of it Eleven months ago was of the same complexion as of
all the other Talooks delivered over to me— No efficient
checks had been established upon the progress of Cultiva=
=tion, The amuldars owing their promotion to Rungapilly
were naturally attentive only to the means which were to
continue to them his countenance and of the acts by which
his support was to be procured you will have formed
an adequate notion from my Report upon his enormous
corruption and imbezzlement in the Ramnad Province and
in the Shevegunga Country— The inclosed letter which I
received very early after my arrival from the Tapildar
whom I found in charge will shew your Board what
might

might have been expected from him had he continued there It was however fortunate that the extreme low rate at which he stated the Jumma of the year occasioned me to make an immediate inquiry into his character and finding him a creature of Rungapillys I sent a better man to supercede him, and it is to his exertions I am enabled to lay before you the Enclosed Statement of the Receipts from the Pollam low as they may appear

A detailed Estimate of the Revenue in the present year I have the honor to lay before you and the Purwa accounts of the two last fuslis shall be transmitted the moment they are translated and examined from the list of these no general conclusions can however be drawn for much of the Crop perished from the extraordinary failure of the periodical Rains in Shatoor as in every other part of the Southern Countries The general Scarcity of Seed Occasioned by the past years drought, the broken Circumstances of the Ryots the bad condition of the Tanks and the late period at which the Rains fell are causes which have defeated my hopes of presenting the Board with an account of increased Cultivation in this Pollam, but I have no doubt that it will produce full what appeared from Mr Harris's Investigation to be its average present worth.–

The Balance due from Shatoor amounting to must of course be provided for in the arrangements now to be adopted, and as the realization of that Balance and of the future increased Peshcush, must intirely depend upon restoring the Tanks to a proper State of Repair, the mode of accomplishing this essential object must be considered in the means Instalments, there seeming however to me an objection to the Introduction of temporary clauses into a permanent Cawle I have not in the inclosed draft of a proprietory Sunnud

Sunnud noticed either the Balance due from the Pollam, or the Repair of the Tanks, but propose with your Sanction to make the best arrangement for liquidation of the balances that the actual resources of the Pollam may afford in addition to the settled Peishcush; and for repairing the Tanks according to Mr. Harris's Statement I would beg leave to recom=mend that the Sum of ^{cChs}2,380. ^{f}3. ^{c}0 be advanced from this Trea=sury and it will be considered a Balance due by the Poligar the payment whereof I will be careful that he make as early as possible.—

In recommending these Indulgences I trust your Board will not consider that I am unmindful of the necessity of Economy in the Management of these Districts, for with=out them the young Poligar must be involved in much future difficulty and distress, and this would be inconsistent with your avowed intention of establishing upon permanent foundations the prosperity of the Country, and the happiness of himself and the people under him.

The arrangements which I have here suggested for his Instatement would however be very imperfect, if I did not at the same time point out a proper person to Superintend the affairs of the Pollam during the remain=ing years of his Minority.— though of uncommon natural quickness and extremely well Educated, at fourteen years of age, it would be imprudent to entrust him with the Pollam, unless under the guidance of a capable manager and of this character is Soondra Pondia Pillay, who has the advantage of twenty years experience in managing the Pollam under the father and Grand father of the present Poligar, whose choice he also is— Under such tutelage, there is every reason to believe that the minor will soon have gained sufficient knowledge to Superintend his own affairs; but in the mean time it would be advisable all contests for power, and prevent the interference of the

Widows

Women of the family who are much inclined to take a part in the affairs of the Pollam, to invest Soondra Pondea Taver with the public Character of manager and make him also specially responsible to the Company for the faithful execu=tion of his Trust.—

Palamcotta 31st January 1800. (Signed) S. Lushington Collr

Numbers	Pollams	Amount of Deshacaval fees Collected in the Circar Country and the number of Villages				Amount of the Maniam the Circar Country by the Circar		
						Nunjah		
		No.	Chs	f	c	Chs	f	c
1	Ellapoorum	61	1150.	.	.	68.	6	.
2	Shivagherry	228	4970.	.	.	6074	.	.
3	Woolamalah	126	3031.	6	.	968.	4.	.
4	Manarcottay	9	245	1.	.	------		
5	Chokumputty	101.	7227.	.	.	1901.	4	.
6	Allagapoory	9½	250.	6.	.	166.	4	.
7	Eatavancottay	6	627.	.	.	560.	.	.
8	Auvdeapoorum	24	259.	5.	.	23.	4.	.
9	Naboonacourchy	19	426.	3.	.	224.	3.	.
10	Manatchy	53½	495.	1.	.	25.	2	.
11	Cabamboor	28½	169.			------		
12	Sorendey	8¼	367.	9.	.	61.	8.	.
13	Chinnelgoody	------				------		
14	Malamandah	1	25.	.	.	------		
15	Attungoway	6	150.	.	.	------		
16	Pauvauly	62	951	2	.	6.	7	.
17	Gollaputty	------				------		
18	Collencondum	12	461.	.	.	350.	1.	.
19	Paryare	63	1448.	5.	.	799.	8	.
20	Sundiyure	26	488.	3.	.	199.	1.	.
21	Yelamadah	10	105	.	.	------		
22	Woorcaud	125½	995.	3.	.	1123	.	.
23	Singumputty	46	104	5.	.	523.	8.	.
		1026	23947.	9.	.	13076.	.	.

produce [illegible] Lands [illegible] [illegible]ty granted [illegible] Pun[illegible]			Cowle Pattam Lands			amounts arising from Hills in the Circar Country			amounts produce of the Lands usurped in the Circar Country.— Nunjah			Punjah			amount of Palem Caul fees in the Circar Country after deducting every Expence to Palem Caulcars			amount of Customs to Petty rights collected in the Circar Country		
Chs	f	c	Chs	f	c	Chs	f	c	Chs	f	c	Chs	f	c	Chs	f	c	Chs	f	c
2[illegible]									78.			713.	1.		400.			258.		
16[illegible]			527.	8.		100			3240			3856	9.		1611.			240.		
[illegible]			1015.						1321.	5.		559.	8.		600.			952	5.	
[illegible]												48	8.		25					
[illegible]			1806.			140			115.	8.		417.	4.		250			3120.		
20.									91.			29.			15			30.		
50.			485.	7.								8.	7.		40.			24.		
10.									72	8.		33	6.		100.					
			58	6.					126.	7.		728.			100.			174.		
															100.			180.		
															20.			120.		
									937.	5		180.			25.			200.		
															20.			50.		
									217.	5.		107.	5.		10.					
27.	9														25					
												1030.			130.					
															15.			100.		
22.															50.					
997.	9.														130.					
256.	3.								12	3.					40.					
															150.					
															600.			203	5.	
															100.					
3268	.	.	3893.	1.	.	590	.	.	11213	1.	.	7712	8.	.	4556	.	.	5652	.	.

No.	amount produce in the new Villa=ges lately usurped from the Circar Lands. –			produce from the Groves or Topes			produce from the Salt Pans			Total Receipts of the Polygars under the fore=going heads assumed			number of Villages recom=mending with the Polygars	amount produce of the Polygars Villages			amount of present Peishcush to the Company			amount of Peishcush recommended for the present year.			amount that will remain with the Polygar for Charges of Collection & Expenses.		
	Chs	f	c	Chs	f	c	Chs	f	c	Chs	f	c	Nos	Chs	f	c	Chs	f	c	CC.	.	.		.	.
1										2750.	7	.	109	43297.	.	.	11176.	.	.	25,000.	.	.	18297.	.	.
2	626	.	.	372	.	.				28294	.	.	111	66000	.	.	11176.	.	.	30,000.	.	.	36000.	.	.
3										8508.	8.	.	65	27076.	.	.	8128.	.	.	14000	.	.	13076.	.	.
4										334.	9.	.	20.	6000.	.	.	2540.	.	.	2540.	.	.	3460.	.	.
5				72	.	.				15086.	3.	.	56	25000	.	.	6604.	.	.	14000.	.	.	11000.	.	.
6	296.	.	.							898.	.	.	4	700.	.	.	108.	7.	.	200.	.	.	500.	.	.
7										1795.	4.	.	6	3600.	.	.	609.	6	.	1000.	.	.	2000.	.	.
8										499.	3.	.	5	5500.	.	.	1224.	3.	.	3000.	.	.	2500.	.	.
9	601.	1.	.							2439	.	.	10.	3000.	.	.	1574.	8.	.	1574.	8.	.	1425.	2.	.
10				10.	.	.				810.	3.	.	9	4500.	.	.	1016.	.	.	2000.	.	.	2500.	.	.
11										309.	.	.	15	4000.	.	.	1016.	.	.	1500.	.	.	2500.	.	.
12				25.	.	.				1797.	2	.	5	2500.	.	.	508.	.	.	1000.	.	.	1500.	.	.
13										70.	.	.	11	2500.	.	.	1696.	5.	.	1696.	5	.	803.	5.	.
14										360.	.	.	9	2700.	.	.	1016.	.	.	1016.	.	.	1484	.	.
15										202.	8.	.	10	3500	.	.	1727.	2	.	1727.	2	.	1772.	8.	.
16										2129.	9.	.	14	3500.	.	.	1168.	4.	.	1168.	4.	.	2331.	6.	.
17										115.	.	.	13	4000.	.	.	1168.	5	.	2000.	.	.	2000.	.	.
18										883.	1.	.	4	500.	.	.	365.	8.	.				500.	.	.
19										3376.	2	.	24	13000	.	.	3332	5.	.	7000.	.	.	6000.	.	.
20										996.	.	.	16	4000.	.	.	1930.	4.	.	2500.	.	.	1500.	.	.
21										255.	.	.	20	3500.	.	.	1016.	.	.	1800.	.	.	1700.	.	.
22	4000.									6921	8.	.					304.	8.	.						
23	3000									4078.	3.	.					314.	.	.						
	8523	1	.	479	.	.				82911.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]111	.	.	59721.	5	.	114722	9	.	113950	1.	

E:E: Signed J. Lushington Collr

The Poligar of Eliapoor suffers comparatively little from the new arrangements and that little is rendered yet lighter to him by the acquisition of Shwanapooram the Village lately conferred upon him - he is also said to possess some money: the Jummah proposed for the present year is therefore very moderate - his past good conduct, and the benefit of his giving to the other Poligars a proper example of punctuality in making good his engagements are reasons for the Indulgence his country produces much dry Grain, and may be made very productive.-

2 By the resumption of the Poligar of Shivagherry is deprived of a third of the Revenues he has hitherto received and when to this deprivation be added the Peshcush now proposed, two thirds of his former Gross receipts will be taken from him. But his Pollam is in a high State of Cultivation, and he is reputed to possess a considerable Sum in ready Cash.-

3 The Woodemally Poligar loses about a fourth of his former Receipts by the new Arrangements and the proposed Jummah might appear too high if it were not to be explained that his remaining Revenues are full what they are estimated at, and that he is considered to have some ready money.-

4 The Poligar of Manarcottah can bear no increase, his extravagance and tyranny have brought the resources of the Pollam so low, that it will be with difficulty I shall recover the Balance of the last year 400 Ch^s. and the Peshcush of the present the head Inhabitants have been sent for and unless they become Security for the Poligars Payments the assumption of his Pollam must be recommended.-

The Poligar of Chokumpatty suffers more than any

any other Poligar by the Proclamation the low Peshcush he has hitherto paid has enabled him to collect a little ready money and he is well able to pay the increase of Peshcush which I have proposed.—

6. The Poligar of Allagaperry loses half of his former Revenues by the Resumptions but he can well bear the Increase Recommended.—

7. The Poligar of Calaurancottah loses about $2/5^{th}$ of his former Revenues by the Resumption the proposed Increase he will however pay without difficulty for he manages his own Affairs and is supposed to have some property.—

8. The Poligar of Awadiapoor suffers very little by the Proclamation — his Villages were productive and when relieved of his present Manager will be able to pay the increase proposed.—

9. The Poligar of Nabaroocomchy suffers much by the Proclamation he can bear no Increase and has not yet paid his first Kist.—

10. Though the Poligar of Manyatchy loses not above a fifth of his Revenues by the Resumption, yet his Country has been so much mismanaged that he cannot bear a greater Peshcush than that proposed.

11. The Poligar of Cadumboor suffers very little by the Proclamation — but he is a minor, and his Pollam has been much mismanaged, the Increase proposed ought however to be paid.—

12. The Poligar of Sorunday loses more than two fifths of his Revenues by the Resumptions — he can bear the Increase Recommended.—

13. The Poligar of Chennelgoody loses little but he can bear no Increase disease has made him seek relief from pain in frequent intoxication and the affairs of the Pollam are managed by the head Inhabitants — who

who allot him a Subsistence.—

14. The Poligar of Mailmandah owes a Balance of 716 Ch^s of last year and the first Kist of the present — he is very old, and the affairs of the Pollam are mismanaged by an extravagant Son — to secure the public dues I have been under necessity of attaching the Crops on the ground and if it shall appear after Investigating the amount produce that Increase can be obtained I shall not fail to Recommend it.—

15. The Poligar of Attinghurry loses little by the new arrangements — but his Peshcush compared with other Poligars, has hitherto been high, and he now owes a Balance of 1227.C Ch^s for the last year and the first Kist of the present the head Inhabitants have been sent for, and if they do not pledge themselves as Securities for the Balance and Current Peshcush the Crops must be secured.—

16. The Poligar of Pavally suffers much by the Resumptions and can bear no Increase.—

17. The Poligar of Gollapetty loses only a fourth part of his Revenue by the Resumptions and can well bear the Increase proposed.—

18. The Poligar of Collumcondum has now only four Tanks left with him, the produce from which is Estimated at five hundred Chuckrums if the lands lying under them be fully cultivated — from this his only resource he has to subsist fifteen Sons, five Daughters and as many Grand Children I beg leave therefore to recommend that all demands on account of Peshcush be suspended, and I shall hereafter have the honor to address the Board respecting a proper maintenance for him

19 The Poligar of Pariyaor loses a fifth of his Revenues by the Resumptions his Pollam is however well Cultivated and he is reputed to have some ready money

money he can therefore afford the Increase Recommended.—

20th The Poligar of Sundeyoor loses a fourth of his Revenue by the Resumptions— his Pollam is large and capable of much Improvement but very ill Managed— the produce ought to be nearly equal to that of Pereyoor but falls below it three fourths in the present State of its Cultivation a greater Revenue than that proposed would not be realized— Indeed he now owes a Balance of 155 Chuckrums for the last year, and the first Kist of the present and unless the Inhabitants become Security, the Crops must be assumed.

21 The Poligar of Yaelmuddah can afford the Increase Recommended.—

22 } 23 } Woorcaud and Singumpetty by the Resumptions the Resources of these Poligars are annihilated I shall have the honor of addressing the Board regarding them when the extent of the Resumptions has been accurately ascertained.—

Palmurra — Signed S. Lushington Collr
30 January 1800

William Petrie Esqr
President & ca Members of the Board of Revenue

Gentlemen

1 I have now the honor of laying before you the Jummabundy and Kisthundy of this Province for the present year, amounting to Shooly Chuckrums or Star Pagt 152000.—

2 In compliance with what I knew to be the wish of your Board my first Engagements with the Ryots were in most Talooks entirely for a Money Settlement: but finding that to pay their first Kists they were Selling their Grain to Speculating Lobbies, who knowing their urgent wants of money demanded it

it at a most inadequate price, I immediately put a Stop to all collections and having again assembled the Inhabitants new modelled it to their great Satisfaction in the manner in which it appears before you, after having again revised the accounts of actual and expected Produce and attentively heard their Representations of their Several Circumstances.—

3 The price at which I have Valued the Grain to be received by Government is low considering that there is no Grain in the district but the produce of the present year, I have therefore no doubt that advantage will accrue from the Sale of this Grain, admitting however that it merely brings the price at which I have Valued it my Settlement will be more than 10 ℘ Cent above the nominal Engagements of my predecessor from this Comparison I however prefer no Claim to approbation, Since it was not to be expected that in Such a Scene of anarchy and Corruption the dues of Government could be even Stipulated for, much less realized.— The difficulties which in conse=quence of Such Confused Irregularity have opposed my management in every Step of its progress, cannot be pro=perly appreciated until I have the honor of Submitting to you a particular report upon the produce of each Talook in the last and present year; of the measures which I have adopted to obtain the Companys just demands; to Check the oppression of the Superior Ryots, and of my Endeavours to render in future the Curnums office effici=ent, the past neglect of which prevented the most perplexing obstacles in obtaining a Correct Knowledge of the Lands. Indeed it is only from an indulgent Consi=deration of the various other business which has for Some time past, and even Still engages my attention, that I shall hope to escape your disapprobation for Submitting to you my Settlement in this abstract manner — your Board may however rely that I shall Endeavour to

to compensate for this delay by the greater pains which I shall bestow on my Report, in order that you may have no difficulty in assuming it as a basis for the permanent Settlement of this Country.—

Killkarry
1st March 1800

Signed S Lushington

To William Petrie Esqr.
President &ca Members of the
Board of Revenue

Gentlemen,

1 The Enclosed Translations and Copies of letters from my Tasildars, and of a Representation from the Principal Mahagens of Tinnevelly claim your early consideration; The Effects of the System which has been pursued in this Province, since its restoration in 1792, under that remorseless Tyrant Etabar Cawn and the agents of that Convicted Criminal Panpiah, it might not be deemed regular in me to explain, but as the measures now adopted by the persons acting under the nabobs authority threaten to defeat one of the beneficial Views which dictated the assumption of the Desha Cawel from the Poligars, it appears indispensable duty in me to represent the nature of them, that I may be enabled under your instructions to arrest their pernicious Effects.—

2 The System of mortgaging a district to a money lender has been so faithfully traced through all its intricacies and iniquities that my further development of it, would be superfluous. — For some months past the absolute transfer of a whole Talook to the hands of Extortioners seems

seems to have been carefully avoided; and instead thereof, quantities of grain are delivered up to the Mortgagers, at a very low price, they stipulating that the Inhabitants shall not be allowed to buy any other, that they shall receive the whole of the Circar authority in disposing of it, at whatever price they chuse to fix upon it, and that they shall levy Taxes from the Inhabitants for expenses of Sibbendy &ca &ca.

3. The particulars given in the accompanying papers render it unnecessary to enter into a lengthened detail as it is a just abstract of the past and present Management throughout the Province, and its certain consequences are explained in the declaration of the &ca Mahagens that unless some alleviation be afforded to the Sufferings of the Inhabitants by the Company they must seek relief in other Countries.–

4. Jaffeir Cawn the Aumil of Pennanelly is not insensible to the Ruin with which this System is desolating the Province– he acknowledges fully its lamentable Effects and injustice to his humanity, though little to the Credit of his qualifications for his Situation I should remark, that he is only the ostensible instrument of it.— The principal agents are two Peshkars of the name of Mahomed Hussain and Tirumal Pilly.— These Men fit Executors of the Gubbyam, Nuzzer Durbar Khurch and rigid prohibition against the Sale of the Inhabitants Grain.— but there is no hope that their dismissal would remove their oppressions in the Collection of the Desha Caval in which there must be much defalcation unless immediate measures be adopted to restrain the depredations which the Inhabitants Suffer– When called upon to pay the Desha Caval fees they reply, "enable us to return to our Village by protecting us from such injustice, and we will gladly

pay

pay the fee, whether Robbers plunder us in the night or the Nabobs Servants by day is to us of equal effect, and the duty of protecting us from such injuries is in both cases equally binding upon the Company who are so paid for it."

5 Considering that the lives of many of the Inhabitants, the present and future prosperity of the Tinnevelly Province the perversion or Establishment, of one of the most beneficial objects intended by the assumption of the Desha Cavel are all involved in this question, I wait your Decision upon it with much anxiety.— If it be resolved to exercise the power which the Poligars were wont to do of protecting the Inhabitants under their Desha Cavel from the Plunder of the Circar Servants, and what is yet more offensive to every feeling of national honor and humanity the injustice of the agents of the European Mortgages, the fair resources of this Valuable Province, assigned like others for the Support of the Military Establishment and now Specially pledged to the Company for the Expences of the Police, may yet be Saved.— But if it Shall be determined not to grant that protection which the Inhabitants under the Companys Deshacavel Solicit, I cannot flatter you with any other Consequences from its assumption than the immediate disappointments and ultimate destructions of the means by which the Company are to defray the Charges of the Police whilst in the Surrender of it to the Circar authority as it is now exercised and which his Highnesses Servants are very anxious to obtain upon pecuniary Conditions, I can See no other result than the more rapid De-population of the Province from the removal of this Salutary restraint upon its complicated Tyranny.—

Every

Every feeling of humanity excited by a local obser=
=vation of the miseries of the people impelled me to
address you upon this Subject at an earlier period
but I was unwilling to Speak with this necessary freedom
of the management of this Country, until I should be Satisfied
from Communications with his Highnesses Servants that
no accommodation could be made with them tending to
the general benefit of the Country, and until by Commu=
=nications with my Servants Employed to assume the
Desha Cawel, I should be perfectly Competent to Judge of
the effects of the assumption with the advantage of
this experience I now give these opinions, and I trust
you will forgive the repetition of my anxiety to receive
your immediate Orders upon them, as I am hourly
mortified by intreaties for relief which without your
Sanction I can neither promise or deny.—

Signed S. Lushington Coll.

Tutacoryn 20th March 1800.

To William Petrie Esqr.
President &ca. Members of the
Board of Revenue

Gentlemen

Para 1 After having accomplished at Palle=
=murrah, all the orders of Government in respect to the
Tinnevelly Poligars, with the Exception of the Increased
Peshcush upon which I had not then received your
Instructions I judged it expedient (being then Employed
in the Ramnad Settlement) to comply with their general
Solicitation to be permitted to return for a few days to their
Pollams to celebrate a principal feast of their Religion, upon
the receipt of your Secretarys letter of the 20th of February
I immediately Summoned them to Mapalore, but Sick=
=ness prevented their being all assembled before the middle
of

of the Ensuing Month, and even then, extreme infirmity made it necessary that the Son of the Shivagherry Poligar should act for his father in conjunction with Arnachel=lum his Manager.—

2 Having assembled the four principal Poli=gars of Ettiapoor, Chokumpatty, Wootmalay, and the young Shivagherry again explained to them the prin=ciples of the Proclamation and the intention of Government towards them, in the way I have done at Pullimurra, after dwelling particularly upon their exone=ration for all Military Service to the State, and all the fears and Expenses of such a tenure, I reminded them that they were hereafter to Consider themselves in the enviable Situation of great Landholders protected in their possessions by a just Government and receiving ample maintenance for themselves and their families; I then apprized them that the return made to the Company by all other Zemindars for similar happiness, and Security under their Government from foreign and domestic Intrigues was to render two thirds of their gross Revenues to the State.—

3 That notwithstanding this was the general principle of assessment yet such was the marked favour of Government towards them in the hope that it would Stimulate them to forget all former habits of idleness and extravagance, and become present managers of their Estates, that in the Jummabundy, for the present year which I then read to them, they would find their Pesh=cush considerably below this standard, such moderation being shewn towards them, it was impossible, but their inclina=tion like their duty would prompt them to a chearful acceptance, and punctual payment of this Jummah in such Kists as we might then arrange.—

They

They expressed much consternation at this Communication, protested in the most earnest manner that the whole Revenues of their Pollams, now the Deshavel had been taken from them, did not amount to half the required Peshcush and that instead of expecting any increase of Tribute they had hoped to receive Credit for the amount of assumed Deshcavel in the Peshcush they now paid — That if I pleased they would send for ten years accounts from their Pollams and when I had Examined them, I should be Concerned of the truth of what they had Stated. —

5. To this I replied, that their declaration of expecting to receive Credit for the Deshcavel was so unreasonable that I did not believe it, and such an assertion inclined me to put the less Confidence in their assurances of the low resources of their Pollams, That it was true I had no unquestionable Documents on which is to Establish the real extent of their Revenues and this, because in their own Management no Accounts were kept in any Degree entitled to attention, the chief part of their money having been Squandered in purposes, the very entry of which would disgrace any account.

6 That the opinion formed of their Revenues was founded upon much less questionable Documents than they wished me to Examine upon accounts from the Office of the Conoongoe of the Circar, under whose Management most of their Pollams had come at different periods, and though these might be Considered Erronious, because under the Nabobs administration collections were often made which were not brought into the accounts, yet the Consideration of such Error would suggest even a higher Peshcush than that which had received the Sanction of Government.

7. I then explained to them that the account upon which I placed most dependance was the Settlement made by Achana Pundit (more commonly known by the name of Rayah Burbur) in the fusley year 1174. that by him the Revenues and Peshcush were fixed as follows.—

	Gross Revenue	Peshcush.
Shevegherry	77,010	33,300
Ettiaporam	44,742	28,400.
Wootmalay	22,354	15000.
Chokumputty then under Aumany	22000.	

8 This the Ettiapoor Poligar, for the rest had no knowledge of it, declared a nominal Settlement, for that the amount had not been collected in three years, and that it included the Oshcavel— to this I replied, that though the Statement of Gross Revenue certainly did include the Oshcavel, yet it did not contain the usurpations made during the last thirty five years and that in regard to its being a nominal Settlement because the Nabob did not Collect it in three years a very little ref=lection would shew him the fallacy of believing, that because the weakness of his Highness's administration and the Confusion which their licentiousness created in the Country at that period incapacitated him from collecting a just Revenue, that the Company would not realize every anna of the Peshcush they should deemed equitable to fix.—

9 It becoming late they requested leave to retire for the Evening and consider of what I had stated to them, they accordingly withdrew; and being assembled again the next morning were reminded of

all

all that had passed the preceding day — They have professing to have deliberated upon it with all the thought and attention so important a question required and after deprecating with an appearance of great fear the displeasure of the Company in consequence of a failure in their Engagements, again pressed upon me, in the most Earnest manner the total inadequacy of their Revenues to such a Peishcush, now that the Desheavel had been taken from them, that the preservation of their honor themselves and their families depended upon me, that if I insisted upon their paying the Peishcush I had mentioned disgrace and indigence must follow their acceptance of it, and it was preferable to them at once to deliver up their Countries, than hazard such consequences. —

10 This declaration embarrassed me for the moment but recollecting that it would save me much laborious Investigation afford you the most complete Satisfaction in regard to the real Value of their Pollams, if they were to come under my immediate Management for five or six months, I stated to the Poligars that the object of Government was to assess them with Moderation and in proportion to their means, and that the Jummah which I had communicated to them was Established upon these Grounds, that if they were really Conscious, the accounts which had been Collected of their Resources, had overrated them, the execution of their own Suggestion of resigning their Pollams for such a period as would admit of an accurate Investigation of their Revenues, was the wisest measure they could adopt — It would

secure

secure them against future distress or difficulty, for I would pledge myself that they would be able to pay the Peshcush fixed after such inquiry with perfect facility.—

11. After adding whatever else occurred to me to favor this suggestion, I dismissed them by saying that it was not my intention in a matter of so great moment to their future welfare to surprize them into any measure they might afterwards disapprove, that I therefore gave them two days to consider what ought to be their choice, whether to pay the increased Settlement with punctuality, or make over their Countries to my Enquiries for a short period.—

12 The disappointment which they could not conceal at this answer, convinced me that the proffer of their Countries was a piece of artifice to inspire me with some Compassion for their feigned distress, and thence a hope that I should recommend a reduction of the Peshcush — when they returned therefore on the day appointed I was prepared for their answer, that though the Peshcush was very heavy yet as the Pollams had been long in the possession of their families it would be a disgrace to their Names if they were to be given up in their time and therefore they must endeavour by every means to pay the augmented Settlement.

13 Nothing now remained but to fix the Kists, which were accordingly arranged in the manner shewn in the Enclosed Jummah and Kistbundy for the Tinnevelly Poligars for the current year.— Some of them you will observe become due very late in the Revenue year, but this

this concession I found absolutely necessary in consideration of the late period at which the increased Jummah was made known to them and that they may have the advantage of the Codah Crop. –

14. Having settled with these Poligars the lesser ones made little objection, and from the whole Muchulkas were taken in the form No which I hope will be found to contain all that you required.

15 From this general arrangement are however to be excepted the Poligars of Maniachy Nadavacoorchy and Auvadapoor, who preferred the Transfer of their Pollams into my hands until I may ascertain the exact amount of their Revenues, and the Poligar of Sundayore whose Pollam it is become necessary to assume at least temporarily, he having neither paid the Kist of his old Peshcush, or obeyed my Summons for attending upon me, though I have waited above a month for him. –

16 Previous to the arrival of the other Poligar I dispatched the Minor of Shattore and his Manager Sondra Pandia Tiven to that Pollam both gratefully acknowledging the reception of Government for the Minors Instatement, the Pesh=cush fixed was /6000/ Chuckrums for the current year, which I hope you will think equitable to the Company and the Poligar of the Muchulka executed by the Poligar and his Manager I have the honor to transmit translates and Copies Enclosed.

17 For the effectual Superintendance of the Repairs of Tanks I had deputed my assistant Mr Kinlock with the necessary Instructions but

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a sudden fall of Rain having interrupted the progress of the Repairs I have recalled him for the important duty of examining the condition, extent and bearings of the numerous Oysters Banks scattered on the Shore of this Gulphs. –

18. In daily expectation of your Boards Instructions upon the Important Question submitted to you in my Letter of the 20th of March, I have refrained from troubling you with further details of Oppression and Depopulation in the Deshcavel Villages, but some of the Petitioners whose hard Case I submitted to you in that letter, are so urgent in their solicitations for your decisions, and this Enormous System of Rapine proceeds with such lamentable Celerity to its certain end the destruction of the recourses of the Deshcavel, and consequently of the whole Province, that I cannot too earnestly solicit your attention to the means of arresting it.

19. The general principles of this System were developed in my former address, the letters which I have now the honor to transmit from my Tapildars, with the documents to which they refer from the parties themselves, give some instances which illustrate it. –

20. In the instructions which I gave to my Tapildars in January last for the assumption of the Deshcavel privileges, I purposely made no allusion to the Tolum Cavel, having had no opportunity to gain Information on which to found any System for its regulation or Collection – The relative duties of these two Services the past and present Situation of the persons performing

performing them, would I know be ascertained at a very early period, from the representations of my Servants on the Spot, and as upon the System to be adopted greatly depended the future tranquility of the Pro=vince, there could not be a Stronger motive for proceeding with great Caution and with a thorough Knowledge of the real Situation of the Several parties to be affected by it — But as the disorders of the Country will daily increase until Some measures be taken for their Suppression, I can no longer delay Submitting for your Consideration the Draft of an advertisement which I propose to publish as the foundation of an efficient System of watching throughout the Country. —

21 The power of the Poligars has been So completely humbled, that the Talum Cawel Carrahs have no longer any dread of them and from their interference, I have no apprehen=sion of any Serious obstruction to the well ordering of the watching Service, but there are other Circum=stances, which if Suffered to take their Course would place the Province in a greater State of Confusion, and in Security of property and life, than it was in the plenitude of the Poligar power. I refer to the Injuries which the Cawel Carrahs no longer protected by or connected with the Poligars receive from the Circar Servants by with-holding of their Russoom and being made Responsible for Losses and Thefts which have never happened.

22 Under the pressure of Such Injuries, it is obvious that men who have Arms in their hands who are well acquainted with all the lurking places in the Country, whose line of duty favours nightly Excursions and

and to whom the hereditary office of Protector as well as their long Connection with the Poligar has naturally given Spirit of Enterprize and independence will plunder and Rob rather than Starve.—

23. No Vigilance on the part of the Company's Servants Exercising the duties of Deshcavel can prevent, nor would the whole Military force in the Province avail against Such Secret and extensive depredation— To disarm them would not be effectual, for a large Bamboo with a piece of Iron Stuck on the Top of it is all Suffi=cient for the purposes of Robbery and Plunder.

24. It would be certainly regular that whatever measures were adopted to restore the Talum Cawel Carrahs to their antient Fees and privileges could be taken in concert with his Highness's manager but the excessive weakness and Corruption of the Nabobs administration compells me to abandon the hope of Co-operation— where the Cawulcarrah is weak his just dues like the just dues of all others in the Country who have not the power of resistance are taken for the benefit of the Circar Servants and where he is Strong enough to Collect a few Vagabonds to plunder the Inhabitants, the Maniyars render his Ruspooms and participate in the Fruits of his depredations.

25. These and others Such acts of Tyranny and injustice have So confounded the proper Right and duty of every Man, that they have Scarcely any longer Known even to himself.— It is from that reflexion that I have made this advertisement more detailed than may at first appear necessary, but my object has been to make the people at large under=stand what duties they have a title to expect from the Cawlgars, to Soften the animosities Subsisting between the Inhabitants and the Cawulgars by Shewing

that

that the past neglect and perversion of those duties is not attributable entirely to the Cawulgars, and to point out to them (for they require every such Comfort) the bene=fits they may expect from the future faithful performance of the watching Service.—

26 To effect this object by restoring the Talumcawul to the intention of its institution and the enjoyment of the Fees and privileges justly due to that Service to the Executors of the Duty, it appears to me indispensable that the Talumcawul Carrahs should in future receive their Russoom immediately from my Servants, employed in the Collection and Service of the Deshcawel, and be held accountable exclusively to the Company for their Conduct.— If this arrangement receive your Sanction, I anticipate the greatest benefits to the Country from its adoption, and on the other hand no Conviction is Stronger upon my Mind than that so long as the Cawulgars are liable to receive Injuries (such as are stated in this letter and its inclosures) from the Circar Servants no peace can be expected in the Province.—

27 The Silence which I have hitherto obser=ved upon the affairs of the forfeited Pollams will not I trust expose me to any Suspicion of inattention to this important part of my charge, indeed I hope the diaries I have lately had the honor to Submit of my Proceedings in those Countries will shew that I have spared no pains to inspire the Inhabitants with a Confidence in the Justice of Government, to break the irregular Habits of former Sherogars and Pions, and to render their labours like those of the people in general profitable to the Company:

In

28. In Districts which have been previously managed more like Bankrupt private Estates than Talooks yielding a Settled Revenue, and where there is no account intitled to the smallest attention, it should be highly imprudent to give opinions unsupported by greater Experience — It may however be Satisfactory to you to know that my Collections on account of Current Revenue up to the present date are as follows. —

	CChs	Former Peshcush of the Polygar
Panjalumcourchy	43042	11176
Nagalapore	9535.	6604.
Colarputty	8296.	6604.
Yittarumpunny	7303.	6096.
Caudalgoody	5515	1320.
Colattoor	2067.	1016.

This Statement includes very little of the Deshcaval dues, great defalcation having arisen in this Branches of Collection from the causes so fully stated to you. —

29. I take this Occasion to express my thankful acknowledgements for the approbation which Government and your Board were pleased to express of the mode I adopted for explaining to the Poligars the principles of the future Government to be established in this Province, and his Lordships expectation of the Successful Completion of the measures confided to my Execution the hope of a Continuance of this flattering Confidence, and the desire to deserve it, will animate every exertion of which I am capable in the important

objects

objects still to be accomplished—

Mangalore 1st May 1800. Signed Stephen Lushington Coll^r

William Petrie Esqre

President &c^a Members of the

Board of Revenue

Gentlemen,

1. My letters to your Board of the 2^d & 7th of June, explained fully to you in how great a degree the Poligars of Pandalumcoorchy and Naglapore had provoked the Company displeasure: but that in noticing their flagrant Conduct at that period I did not mean to recommend any immediate measures should be taken to punish them. I was clearly of opinion no coercion ought to be attempted until a proper detachment could be formed under an Officer who had experience of the Southern Countries, whose integrity was incorruptible, and until some general System for the future Government of the Poligars had been determined upon— That a small force would endanger combinations and troublesome resistance, whilst the expence of a large Detachment was of too weighty consideration to be sacrificed to the sequestration of two or more of their Pollams— That the radical reduction of their barbarous power could not however be too early undertaken, and until it were effected the Inhabitants of those Countries would not be secure in their property or lives, nor would the Poligars be otherwise than insolent and disobedient—

2. That the causes which had nurtured their contumacious spirit had been so fully and so justly related in your address to Government of the 27th of March 1797 that little could be added on this Subject: but that I despaired of regularity in the payment of the Poligars Kists, or of any thing approaching to good Government amongst them, until some of the measures suggested in that

let-

letter had been carried into execution; that others appeared to me to require some modification, and upon this point I should with deference submit my Sentiments to you at as early a day as possible but I had not the least hesitation in then assuring you that the collection of the Deshacaval was the scourge of the people and the source of incalculable evils to the Country –

3 You were pleased to call for these Sentiments with a degree of earnestness, which I considered the best token of your anxiety to arrange the prevailing disorders with every possible degree of promptitude, and though I regretted that the constant pressure of other duties had left me no leisure to express my opinions, in a manner proper to be submitted to you, upon a question which had been deemed of so much intricacy as the future Government of the Tinnivelly Poligars, I promised to address you upon this Subject with every possible expedition – From that period as much of my time as could be withdrawn from other duties has been given to it, and I shall now have the honor to detail to you all the Information I have been able to collect, and the conclusions, which from a Comparison of former repre=sentations to you, I have formed in my own mind, under these three general heads; The Origin of the Poligars, their present condition, and the situation in which they require to be placed – In the discussion of these points it will be useful to take a summary view of what appears on your records under these several heads –

4 First – The Origin of the Poligars

5 The Records of the Southern Peshcush since the assignment of the Poligars to the Companys entire controul in 1792 (those of Messrs Irwin & Torin are not and I much regret it amongst the records of my Cutcherry) furnish scarcely a remark regarding the origin of the Poligars. The

The only observation I have met with is in a letter from Mr Powney wherein he says "The Tinnivelly Poligars were originally independant Chieftains whose possessions were confined to the Hills and Mountains occasionally levying contributions on the low Countries but possessing no part of them" such is nearly the account which a Hill Poligar would himself give of his origin, while those situated in the open and most fertile parts of the Tinnivelly Country, would pretend to trace back the antiquity of their families to Sixty generations, and attempt to impose upon the credulity of unsuspecting persons, by referring to the brazen records of Pagodas for their origin. These however are fabulous impositions artfully designed to countenance their usurpations, and to give a body to that spirit of independance, which it is the interest and unceasing object of the Poligars to establish — That the Tinnivelly Poligars were not originally independant Chieftains whose possessions were confined to the Hills and Mountains is irrefragably proved by many of the most extensive and valuable Pollams, being situated in the open level and most fertile parts of the Tinnivelly Country, and the general difference of Caste between the Poligars of the Hills and Eastern Districts, is the most unquestionable evidence of their not being descended from, or even connected with each other; But in reputation of any claims which may be preferred on the ground of ancient right, it is sufficient for us to know, what is related in the History of the Southern Countries, that from the most remote ages untill about the Year Anno domini 1340, the Sceptre of that part of the Peninsula was swayed with prosperity and splendour by a Race of Chittery Princes of the title of Pandeen, and it does not appear, or is it generally considered that the Pollams had existence in those days. Their dominion was subverted by a successful Mahomedan Establishment, which was in its turn overthrown by the Rajah of Mysore bringing us down to

abo

about the Year AD 1420 when a Gentoo Family acquired the Government of the Madura Kingdom denominated the Carnatic Hair and enjoyed it for about the space of 155 Years. This Family was succeeded by the Ancestor of the celebrated Trimul Naig, who was a Viceroy from the Sovereigns of the Carnatick, and in consequence of the convulsions in the Superior Government this family, denominated the Kartakul shortly after became independant, and Trimul Naig after a long reign died about the Year AD 1660 - It is in the early times of the reigns of these two Hindoo Houses of Karnatic and Kartakul, that it is considered the Poligars received their original small possessions - The Hindoo Government was scarcely ever known to adopt any other System of Revenue than that of Settlements with the head or principal Inhabitants, whose Situation is hereditary and whose Rents in those days were light and moderate. Such of those head Inhabitants as were Men of ability or ambition easily acquired considerable influence and by retaining parties of Peons became to be considerd active Shevgars - such Shevgars in some cases, and as frequently some faithful adherents about the person of the Sovereign in others, were permitted to keep up a certain number of followers for the protection of a particular tract of Country, and had some Villages in the midst of it assigned for the maintenance of themselves and families a Service of possession which naturally enough became hereditary - In this Character they were occasionally called to the Standard of their Sovereign, and then assumed the name of Poligar, which literally means "the Chief of a Camp" and not the proprietor of a Country" -

This account of the Origin of the Poligars is drawn from the History of the Southern Countries, is confirmed by the very name they bear, and does not carry back the oldest of them to a more ancient time than 380 Years

Years ago — many of them are believed however to be of much more recent date and some are said to be of Trimul Naigs creation (160 Years back) certain however is it that the whole of the Tinnivelly, Madura, Dindigul and Manapara Poligars, paid Tribute to him, and were under an obligation to assist him with all their forces to oppose his Enemies —

From this historical recital two important Conclusions result — First that the pretensions which the Poligars advance to their present lands on the ground of ancient immemorical possession have little foundation — Secondly that they were created about 200 Years ago by the policy of the Hindoo Government for the protection of the Country and the Support of the Sovereign, and that in the time of Trimul Naig 160 Years ago, they had not degenerated from the original purpose of their institution —

Their present Situation

To the detail given in your letter of the 27th March 1797 of the Situation of the Poligars I shall add some observations, and with this view I shall here give a brief Abstract of this part of your letter, and oppose to it such remarks as may tend to a thorough understanding of their present Situation, Character and habits —

It appeared then, that besides the resources which the Poligars drew from their Pollam Lands, and those they had usurped from the Circar that they derived a considerable revenue from the fees which they levied on the Inhabitants of the low lands as Watchers of the Villages; these fees were stated to be of two descriptions the Talum Cawel or Village Watching — the Desha Cawel or District Watching —

The Talum Cawel appeared the ancient fee established from time immemorial over the whole

Province

Province of Tinnevelly for the purpose of paying the Wages of Watching peons or Tallears in the Villages. The Office considered hereditary and the Grain Cattle & domestic property in the Villages under the care of the person holding it. That originally the Poligars had no connection with this Service but they had by force extended so wide an influence over the person holding it, that at that period there were only 477½ Villages in the Tinnevelly Province with independant Cavulkars the rest 1635½ being under the controul of the different Poligars –

Vide A to B The Deshacaval was considered an Arbitrary exaction by the Poligars of later Years, Vizt from AD 1720 to 1781 inclusive, but principally between the Years 1740 and 1760 when the Province of Tinnevelly was convulsed by the struggle of contending Interests – This contribution was levied by the Poligars from the defenceless Villagers, as the price of their forbearance to plunder them, and had been since confirmed by the strength of the Poligars and by the inefficacy of the Nabobs Government to enforce a due authority over them. The Collection of it made in a most oppressive manner by parties of armed Peons, whom the Poligar detaches from his Fort as suits his convenience, and who receive payments in money or in Grain Cattle &ca according to circumstances – the payment of the Tax often disputed and the cause of many quarrels – The armed Peons employed on these occasions frequently compelling the Inhabitants to allow them batta, beetle &ca and putting them to considerable inconvenience besides Extra Expence –

The influence of the Poligar also used in calling upon the Inhabitants for assessments on various pretences such as hunting batta, marriage Expences, presents for Sherogars and Vakeels, &ca &ca undefined & unlimited, and such was the dread which they had inspired into the cultivators

of

of the Circar lands, by remaining armed in the midst of a Country, otherwise in profound peace that these requisitions were not resisted In addition to the connexion between the Poligars and the Inhabitants of the Circar lands &c arising from the Collection of the Talum & Deshacawal fees, there were other causes which favored the oppressive interference of the Poligars - The Situation of the Circar and Poligar Villages which are indiscriminately mixed together. some of the Poligars holding farms at a favorable Rent in the Nabobs Country, and cultivating Circar Lands as Inhabitants under the Nabobs Government.

A This Account of the Talum Cawil is entirely correct - Its institution is coeval with the Establishment of the Villages themselves, and was of course, for Ages totally independant of the Desha Cawil Carah, whose origin as a Poligar is so much more recent. The common mode of a Poligars interference in the Talum cawil is by subjecting and not removing the Cawil Carah into a complete submission to his will, and thus superceding the authority of the Village. In this Situation both Cawils enjoy their respective Meerafsey but the Poligar has contrived in many of these Villages to levy an annual contribution from the Talum Cawil Carrahs as a badge of their servitude and dependance upon him - B

The Deshacawil must have been established many Years before the period here assigned it - Yet as the Deshacawil of those days bears no similitude to that of the present but in name, it would seem as if the period when such shameful innovations took place, as to alter and pervert its original purposes had been mistaken for the Æra of its Commencement. The Desha cawil of old times were so insignificant as not to be believed a tenth of the present receipts; and were bestowed, sometimes by the

favor

favor of the prince, and much more frequently by the liberality of the Villages for those Services of watching and Security beyond the ability of the Village Watchers to execute - Hence arose the practice of their gradually acquiring the Desha Cavel of Villages in their neighbourhood distinct from their Pollam land - The period however between 1740 and 60 was highly favorable to their making those vast additions of Cavel Villages and Cavel fees with which they are so justly charged and which proceeded from the Circumstances here related - yet it cannot be doubted, but that the encroachments of the Poligars have continued from Year to Year (with the exception of the short period of Mahomed Isoof Cawn's Government of them) until the present day, and that they have been as intolerable within these last Six Years since the separate Government which has obtained over the Pollams and Villages as at former periods - Inconveniences which the vigilance of no Collector could obviate so long as the Poligar has intercourse with the Villages and the Company's Government continues so lenient and mild as to be utterly incapable of holding such licentious spirits in subjection -

The mode of collecting the Deshacavel fees is here very correctly related, it may be added that when not quietly submitted to, torture & the Whip are applied, the whole Village put into confinement, every occupation interdicted, the Cattle pounded, the Inhabitants taken captive to, and not unfrequently murderd in, the Pollams and in short every outrage of violence and cruelty is committed until their purposes are obtained - a very striking example of the accuracy of this Statement has been lately afforded by the Poligar of Naglapore towards the Inhabitants of Gopaulporam, some of whom he still holds in imprisonment

:rnment in defiance of all my remonstrances to him—

In this place I will enumerate the three principal branches of the Desha Canal revenue at present reputed [illegible] in the aggregate

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displeasure.

Though I have procured some Statements of the Poligar Revenues I do not conceive it necessary to submit them to you in the present fullness of the Poligar power no accurate accounts of their resources could be reasonably expected for it has long been as much a principle amongst them to suppress every knowledge of their ancient privileges as it has been to add to them by every act of fraud and violence those which have been before submitted to you are however sufficiently correct to manifest how much the turbu-lence and arrogance of the Poligars is to be attributed to their overgrown extent: when some progress has been made in effecting that reform which is so imperiously demanded, these Statements will of course be scrupulously investigated, but enqui-ry upon such points in their present licentious State would not only be now unprofitable, but obstruct future research by creating a greater degree of caution in concealing & destroy-ing all authentic documents.

Though it must doubtless have frequently occurred to your Board, yet I do not find it stated in the records of my Cutcherry, that the want of criminal Justice in the Southern Countries is the chief source of all those enormities of which the Poligars are in the constant commission. The proof of these crimes is not often obtained, and that not from any care taken by the Poligars to conceal them but because the families of those who have been sacrificed well know with what implacable revenge the Poligar would visit the offence of Complaint. Having no fear of punishment there can never be wanting amongst the Poligar Peons fit Instruments for his murderous designs, and that you may have before you one instance of the mode in which such deeds are generally accomplished I will quote the following Extract of

two

two letters I have recently received from Captain Dighton commanding at Sheevlapatore.

From Captain Dighton to Mr Lushington 5th July 1799

"I am sorry to acquaint you that three men have been put to death at Sheveghery for (as they say) having kept up a secret intercourse with the Ions party whether these persons were guilty or innocent I will not take upon myself to say, but I am very certain the power of judging in such cases ought to be where the understanding is more enlightened and in hands more dispassionate than any that are to be found there."

From Captain Dighton to Mr Lushington 8th July

"I lately informed you of three persons being put to death at Shevagherry, since then I hear another has suffered suspected of the same crime; as the mode of executing these poor criminals is in my opinion a more convincing trait of the savage disposition of the Poligar character than a thousand other instances I will communicate it to you"

"A circle of Peons armed with Spears formed the ring into which these poor creatures were brought, and they were spear'd to death precisely in the same manner they do a wild Hog when out a hunting. The Wives and Children were not suffered to approach them to take an eternal farewel, altho' imploring, with tears & shrieking's so shocking that I could not have believed the most obdurate humane heart could have opposed: This account I have had from many that were present at the execution, but particularly related by a person in my own Service who happened to be present at the time."

The consideration of this horrid deed I shall hereafter bring more particularly before you: many of the Poligars I have much reason to believe are covered with such

such Crimes - and their continuance must be expected, so long as all the vices and passions of the most savage state of human nature, are not only unrestrained by the fear of punishment but are cherished by infamous Sycophants who enrich themselves by their Commission. It is therefore of the utmost consequence in any measures of reform which may be undertaken that these Ministers (as they call themselves) to every vicious propensity in the Poligar may in future have some fear for their own personal safety, however indifferent they may be to their Masters destruction -

The Situation to which they ought to be reduced.

My remarks upon the origin of the Poligars shewed that they were created for the protection of the Country and the support of the Hindoo empire: my observations upon their present situation, character, and habits will I trust as satisfactorily have established that after some Years of the most lenient treatment under the Company's mild Government, they are at this moment the scourge of the Country, and the Enemies of all legitimate Government -

Admitting these premises, and the conclusions drawn from them, to be just, and I would gladly answer any objection to their accuracy, it cannot be questioned that the immediate reduction of their power and the increase of their inadequate tribute, are objects of equal importance to the preservation of the people the prosperity of the Country and the permanent safety of our Government -

The first step towards this object is the punishment of those who during the late period of hostility were particularly contumacious. -

First amongst these is the Poligar of Panjalumcoorchy - besides the instances of his disaffection & disobedience which are already before you it remains only for me

me to add that all those parts of Tinnevelly surrounding his Pollam were kept in a constant state of terror from his incursions, and that to his example and intrigues I attribute in a great degree the turbulence of nearly the whole of the Eastern Poligars. You are already apprized that possessing annual resources more than six times his yearly Peshcush, he is at this moment in arrear fourteen Months of his tribute —

The Second in delinquency is the Poligar of Nagalapore his Enormities are so fully detailed in my letter of the 2d of June that I have only to beg your reference to it — and to add, that he is at this time in arrear two of his Kists for the last Fusley —

The Third is the Poligar of Edulgoody — he pays a Peshcush of only 700 Rupees ℘ Annum but has had the audacity to carry off Cattle from the Ramnad Country in hundreds, to take the Inhabitants prisoners because they refused to pay what he called Cawel fees and has I believe at this moment two of them in Chains —

The Colatoor Poligar whose Pollam borders upon Catabomma Naigue, has not even gone through the formality of sending his Vakeel to my Cutcherry and has treated with the most wanton disrespect all the Messengers whom I sent to him with Orders, none of which he obeyed — he owes the whole of his last Years Peshcush, and one Kist for 1207 — His Yearly tribute is no more than St. Pag. 564:16 f. and his insolence cannot be accounted for, but by a reference to the conduct of the Panjalumcourchy Poligar with whom he is in close confidency.

The fifth is the Poligar of Colarputty, he was one of those who endeavoured to establish by force, in defiance of my repeated interdictions, the collection of the Desha Cavel in Ramnad — he is in arrear nearly the whole of the last Years Peshcush amounting to Star Pagodas 366:8:3 and has been

been otherwise turbulent. When these five Pollams have been brought under the Company's Management, and as they are situated in the open plains little difficulty can arise in reducing them, the other Poligars will begin to abandon those false notions which they at present entertain of their own consequence and the Company's past forbearance and will not I apprehend oppose any formidable obstacle to the arrangements that may be deemed necessary in regard to themselves. Whilst the Detachment is employed against the Eastern Poligars, a proclamation should be addressed to those to the Westward, warning them that Government have resolved to punish these Poligars, Panjalumcourchy, Naglapore, Cadulgoody, Colatoor, and Colarpatty, and that whoever of the Poligars shall afford them either assistance or countenance will draw upon themselves the severest displeasure of the Company. It would also spare the effusion of much blood if the Commanding Officer of the Detachment were authorized to try by court martial all persons found in Arms against the Company, and to carry the sentence of the Court into immediate execution - of course an advertisement apprizing the Inhabitants that such power was lodged in the Company's Officer would be previously necessary and that it would be used with the utmost rigour. A very few examples would check resistence and ultimately save many lives.

The next measure should be the demolition of all the forts in the Poligar Countries, one after another to the ground, the removal of their old guns and Stores and subsequently a formal requisition to deliver up at a given price all their fire Arms under pain of treating as Rebels, all who should be found with any in their possession. A Proclamation should at the same time be published apprizing the Country at large that the Company had taken upon themselves the duty of defence & from

from foreign foes, and of preserving domestic tranquility - and that the Poligars were relieved from the obligation of keeping up an armed force. The destruction of their forts and Cumbies may be remarked will be of more alarm to them than any other proceeding, as striking at the root of all those pernicious notions with which they are inspired, and calculated to give complete efficacy to every succeeding object -

Did the Desha Cawal possess either the simplicity or utility of its ancient institution a question could scarcely even then arise of the right to suppress it and of consequence it can much less be doubted, now that it is made the cover for such manifold corruptions & Enormities. It has been shewn that the Poligars hold their Pollams as the Officers, and consequently at the will & pleasure of Government - and with regard to the Deshacawel it is obviously of the nature of a Service which must be yet more liable to the regulation & controul of Government. If the whole of the Tinnivelly Province was under the Companys Authority - I should probably recommend the complete abolition of the Deshacawel fee as the only infallible means of restoring the Talum Cawel to its ancient Spirit. But so long as the Country continues in the Nabobs hands it would seem more expedient to collect it, and give the Poligar Credit for the Amount in his Peshcush - Whatever may be hereafter determined, for the present it would certainly seem indispensable that the Collection of this fee should be with the Collector until the just claim of each Poligar on this account has been thoroughly investigated - To place it at present undefined in its nature and unknown in its amount, with his Highness's Aumils would lead to perpetual litigation between them and the Poligars - when

its

its nature and amount have been satisfactorily adjusted, the experience obtained in arriving at the adjustment will be the best guide in ultimately determining with whom it should remain.

To reestablish the hereditary Talum cawul Carahs in their privileges every where must prove a measure of the highest advantage, and will best secure the faithful discharge of the Watching Service throughout the Country; but I apprehend that some time must elapse before that Service can be restored to its ancient Spirit and utility, for in many places the Poligars have reduced the Talum cawul Carahs into a state of dread and terror of them so abject, as to render it impossible for the latter to be easy in their condition or complete their confidence until every vestage of the Deshacawul is done away, & they no longer fear that with the next return of public commotion, or during the temporary absence of our Troops, the Poligars may require their Ascendancy.—

The question which would seem next to come properly under discussion is the increase of their Peshcush: it is desireable that this be made as early as possible, but, until the extent of their usurpations and resources have been accurately investigated no permanent increase can be fixed. it would therefore seem adviseable; when their notions of independance have been checked, by the measures previously recommended to form a temporary Settlement upon the best superficial information that can be obtained, which will of course be open to future consideration and correction—

For the accomplishment of all these important objects, of punishing the refractory, demolishing their Forts, depriving them of their fire Arms, for assuming the Deshacawul preventing their maintenance of any armed force, and for increasing their inadequate tribute, a strong detachment must be called into the field. it must be employed with vigour and Energy & Justice by an Officer acquainted

acquainted with the Country. and there must be a perfect union of sentiments and object between the Civil and Military Authorities such a combination would it may be hoped in a great degree overcome the acknowledged difficulties to an efficient arrangement whilst the Nabobs authority prevails in that Country; to dwell upon the consequences of establishing such a System of measures cannot be necessary. it is enough to say that the commerce agriculture and Revenue of the Country will be relieved from the oppressive burden of a most licentious body of people, who must in a short time from necessity apply their industry as Ryots with undivided occupation, and that a very large proportion of the increase, which they will bring to the annual labor and production of the Country will gradually flow into the public Treasury—

These are prospects which in the present distraction of that part of our possessions must be contemplated with the most sensible gratification. but it will be obvious to your Board that unless the fear of our Arms be upheld by the institution of a criminal court of Justice to take cognizance of the daring robberies and murders which are daily committed the Inhabitants cannot toil for their own and the public benefit in safety, and the resources of the state must necessarily decline—

The foregoing remarks immediately concern the Tinnevelly Poligars but they apply equally to those of Madura, whose origin and tenure are the same, this exception ought however to be noticed that possessing less power and less Money they are more obedient and more punctual—

In offering to you my Sentiments upon the best mode of hereafter administering the Revenues

of

of Ramnad: it is my duty to submit to you the enclosed Petition from the Ranee –

The circumstances she has there stated correspond with the substance of her repeated verbal representations to me, but having received no instructions on the subject; I did not feel myself at liberty to enter into a particular discussion of it with her. I trust however that I may not be considered to overstep the line of my duty in recalling your Boards remembrance to the peculiar circumstances which attended the assumption of that Country, or in offering my opinion upon the expediency of making choice of this period, for restoring the Ranee to her acknowledged hereditary rights – In your address of the 27th March 1798 your Board observe – "The Ramnad Country being under the Companys management such arrangements may be introduced for the future regulations of it and for commuting the Service for a Money payment when delivered over to the appointed Successor as the general determination of Government on this Subject may authorize –

That so great a proof of moderation, and of attention to individual claims, as her instatement, would establish the confidence of the Shevagunga Sherogar and of the Tinnivelly Western Poligars, at a time when it is become necessary to adopt some decisive measures against those to the Eastward, and to create a new System for the future Government of the Poligar Countries will doubtless occur to your Board, as well as that the conditions of the restoration of this province might be made an Example for the whole –

The good understanding of the Ranee would cheerfully yield to whatever System of measures may be determined upon; particularly to the commutation of the Military Service for a Money payment, and to such further

further Increase of Peshcush as the revenues of the Country can afford - That these would be benefited by her restoration I have much confidence, for many of the multitudes of Inhabitants who have emigrated in consequence of the drought which has for two Years scourgd this sterl Country would be brought back by their attachment to this ancient family, and which the respectable Character of the Ranee has drawn very strongly to herself -

After an attentive consideration of all the resources of the Ramnad Province, and adverting to its present calamitous State, I conceive that for the first Year a higher Peshcush than 80,000 Star Pagodas could not be paid - in the second and third Year it might be augmented to 85,000 Pagodas but whether any further Increase could be made would much depend upon the failure or success of the enclosed Plan for watering the Province from the Madura River -

You are apprized that the Madura River (commonly called Vygay and Vyarro) has its source in the great chain of Mountains which divides the Peninsula, and that passing through the Valleys of Cumbum, Penacoom, Outamapollam, and Batteguntu it runs by Madura and thence through the Ramnad Province to the Sea - But though this be its course, such is the scarcity of its Water that it frequently does not reach more than half way through the Ramnad District and it was this calamitous circumstance which suggested to Mootoo Irla Pelly the able Predaun of the late Rajah, that an examination of the source of the River might offer means of supplying it with more abundant waters For this purpose he sent four intelligent Men from Ramnad, four from Madura, and four from the Pollams to examine & report

report upon the practicability of opening other Channels, or at least of preventing any unprofitable waste of the Water. The result of their Survey was that the greatest part of the rain which falls in the Mountains was either lost in Swampy Marshes, or ran down to the other Coast and was then wasted in the Sea - but that by removing some rocks, cutting a Channel through two Marshes, and shutting up two Watercourses an abundance of Water could be secured to all the Countries through which the Madura River flows - The estimated expence of the whole was 20,000 Pagodas and so entirely did Mootoo Irla Pillay confide in the accuracy of the Survey, that he rented the Madura Country, prepared implements, collected Workmen, and had incurred an expense of 5000 Pagodas when he was removed from the Dalawaship by the Jealousy of his Master, and those who succeeded, had neither Sense or spirit to pursue the project - If this object shall appear to your Board as it does to me of the highest importance, I would suggest the propriety of a regular Survey of the source of the Vyaroo that it may be ascertained how far its Waters can be increased without Injury any established Channels of Supply to the Inhabitants on the Malabar Coast. If this suggestion be approved, and it be determined to restore the Country, a clause can be inserted in the new Cowle, stipulating that the Ranee shall defray the Expence of the Work.

Regarding the Country of Shevagunga and the Pollams of Manapara, I shall have the honor to address you at a future day.

I have the honor to be with great respect &c. &c. &c.

Madras
20th August 1799

(Signed) S. Lushington
Collr.

To

The President & Members of the Board of Revenue

Gentlemen,

1. That I have not detailed to the Board at an earlier period the measures adopted by me for securing to the Company an adequate Revenue from the Province of Tinnevelly, has been owing to the occupation of every moment of my time in realizing the Current Settlement, and to an anxious Solicitude not to bind the Ryots with engagements which experience might prove that they could not perform. I have waited therefore to this advanced Period of the Year, not without a full sense of the Confidence & Indulgence of Your Board in allowing so long a Silence, in order that in reporting to you upon the Rent I might be able to judge of its effect upon the Welfare of the People, and I have now the Satisfaction of submitting for Your Inspection a Settlement considerably above the public Collections of former Years under the Confidence that it has been concluded with due regard to the actual Condition and resources of the Inhabitants —

2. In my Report to your Board under date the 28th May last I stated to you that at the time I received Charge of the Tinnevelly Country from the Officers of the Nabob the Season for cultivating the Car Crop had nearly expired, without a proper advantage having been taken of it by the Farmers, to whom the Country had been leased in the preceding Year. For uncertain of their Continuance in Authority beyond the Close of the expired Fusly, they had no Interest in extending the Cultivation of the Succeeding Year, so that the Inhabitants were left to the tillage of their Lands not stimulated in their Industry by the hand of Authority, or encouraged by those advances of Money indispensable to an extensive Cultivation.

3. Under these Circumstances of discourage-

ment

ment, it became a primary duty to impress the Ryots with a Sense of the Moderation and Justice of the Company and of the Stability of their Government in Tinnevelly, to establish a just Confidence in their Minds, that the indifference of the Mussulman Government to their Welfare would be succeeded by an anxious watchfulness on the part of the Company, to secure them in all their Rights & Privileges, to foster and maintain their religious Establishments and Charities, and that a wise and liberal disposition in their Rulers would aid their Industry, as well by advances of Money to the extent that they might be actually required, as by the repairs of the Tanks and Watercourses which had been falling uninterruptedly to decay, since the extinction of the Hindoo Government —

4. These assurances, which your Instructions authorised, could not but be received with thankfulness by a People, who had so long suffered from the neglect and unequal extortions of a bad administration, and remembering the lenient treatment they had received when before under the Company's Management, they looked with Confidence to the Performance of them —

5. Having ascertained the extent of advances actually required for the Car Crop, no time was lost in extending this necessary aid to the Cultivation, and when the few days remaining of the Season of Culture had expired, I had the Satisfaction of seeing that the Ryots confiding in my assurances of receiving their due Share, had returned to the tillage of their Lands with a vigor and Success even beyond my own expectations, for during the few days that remained for Cultivation no less than 4000 Cottahs of Land were additionally

All

6. All the Seed which was likely to come to maturity having thus been cast into the Ground, my attention was next given to the best mode of securing to the Company their due proportion of the Crop, in this consideration my wishes naturally pointed to the immediate Establishment of a Village Rent, but the Obstacles to the completion of it, at that Season of the Year were insuperable –

7. Such of the records of the former Government as had then come under my Examination did not afford me any information upon which I could rely of the relative fertility of the Lands, and the System of Monopoly which had prevailed for so many Years in the Sale of Grain left me no correct means of judging what would be its price when the market should be opened, and the Cultivation increased to ascertain these essential points to every Rent, it became indispensable to reap the Car Crop by Aumany, in order that the information thereby obtained of the quality of the lands, and the value of their Produce might be applied with just consideration to the Condition of the Ryots in forming a Rent, at a more advanced period of the Year independant of these reasons for delaying the Settlement, the disturbed State of the Southern Countries would have been an unanswerable Reason with the Ryots for declining to accept the responsibility of a Money Rent, and would of itself have been a sufficient motive for refraining from encreasing the difficulty of introducing this System at a future Period by any immature attempt to accomplish it at that Season

8. Influenced by these motives which I trust you will approve, no effort in my power to make was thenceforth omitted, to secure to the Company by Aumanie every

Cotah

total of the Produce to which the Circar was justly entitled, to ascertain the fertility, peculiar Customs & value of the several Talooks, and when the Cultivation of the whole Years became accurately known, and I had obtained all the information procurable of the Revenues of former Years, I proceeded into the Talooks for the completion of the Rent —

9. The Statements of Cultivation in the present Year, to which I shall in a subsequent part of this Report request your attention will I hope satisfy you that my time had been unremittingly given to this important Object and the accompanying Accounts, which I shall now briefly explain of the management of the last Fusly, and of the Revenue of past Years, will I trust satisfactorily shew that I spared no pains to inform myself thoroughly as well as of the actual Situation of the People, as of the past condition of the Province —

10. When I received your Instructions relative to the transfer of this Province to the Companys Authority I found it divided into Seven large Farms each Farmer having entered into engagements at the Durbar of the Nabob, independent of the Foujdar of the Province The aggregate of their Rent payable to His Highness at Madras was ~ 5.92.087: 2: 10 the Amount of Wages to be made good by them to the Foujdar and Huzzoor Mutsuddies 41.205. 9. 39 & the Amount payable to the Troops & Sibbendies stationed in the Talooks Ch[s] 1.72.706. 6. 39 making their total payments under these three Heads 8.06.000 —

11. The particular Sums due by each Renter are shewn in the accompanying Statement as well as the Amount of Remission claimed under these several heads Copies & translates

of

3) of their Engagements with the Durbar are also enclosed, & Petitions from themselves setting forth their Claims to Remission also accompany. It remains therefore for the Board to consider & determine upon them, & until their decision is communicated to me I shall continue the present restraint upon their Persons & Accounts—

4 To aid the determination of the Board I transmit in a Separate Paper my Sentiments upon their several Cases, and of the prospect of effecting a recovery of what is due from them—

12. Having thus explained the nature of the Engagements entered into by His Highness for obtaining a Revenue from this Province in Fusly 1210, I shall briefly advert to the preceding Years of the Musselman Management of this Province, that you may be the better able to judge of the Justice, or otherwise of the present Settlement—

13. From the information of intelligent Natives in Tinnivelly, though chiefly from the Records of the Canongoes Office which has been upon a very different footing in this Province from other Parts of the Carnatic I am enabled to lay

5 before you in Abstract an account of the Revenue of Tinnivelly from A.D. 1744 or Fusly 1154 to A.D. 1771 or Fusly 1181 and in detail from Fusly 1181 to the present day—

14. These Accounts commence with the Administration of Anwar Cawn appointed Foujdar & Amil of Tinnivelly by Anwurdeen Cawn, who had been recently created Subadar of the Carnatick: To Anwar Cawn succeeded Meer Gholaum Hussain Cawn, and Hussain Mahomed Cawn, their joint Managements comprizing a period of Six Years, in which the Gross Collections fluctuated from 7 to 12 Lacks of Chuckrums according to the following Statement—

Abstract

Abstract of Collections, including Pagoda Charges &ca.

Aumil in the Year		Names of the Years		Collections of the Tin.y Province		
		The Year AD	Cond with the Fusly	CChs	fs	C
Anwur Cawn	Comd in July	1744	1154	8,65,812	1	21
Meer Gholaum Hussain Cawn	Do	1745	1155	9,83,807	2	24
		1746	1156	8,27,245	3	"
		1747	1157	12,48,510	9	"
		1748	1158	10,83,735	5	43½
Hussain Mahomed Cawn		1749	1159	7,00,462	6	13½

15. When Anwurddeen Cawn was slain in battle Chunda Saib deputed an Aumil named Aulum Cawn to take Charge of Tinnevelly, who establishing the power of his Master, continued to manage the Province in his behalf for two Years in which the Collections were as follow —

	In the Year AD	Fusly	CChs	fs	C
Aulleim Cawn	1750	1160	8,01,844	2	27
	1751	1161	7,29,997	6	22½

to him succeeded for a short time Tetarappa Moodely on the part of & Mundi Meya the Agent of who was slain in Tinnevelly, disputing the Authority of Mahomed Ally Cawn The Year of his Management were — — — 6,62,648 : 7 : 6
of Mundey Meya — — — — — — 6,11,348 . 9 : 33

16. Upon Mundi Meyas Death, the Authority of Maufooz Cawn was established in the Country: He formed the design of becoming independant in the possession of it, & his Collections for the two Years of his Administration were for

A.D 1754 or Fusly 1164 — — — 6,09,669 . 9 : 26
1755 or 1165 — — — — 7,25,080 . . . "

But Esoof Cawn by the Vigor of his Mind, frustrated this ambitious design of Maufooz Cawn, & reestablishing the power

of

of Mahomed Ally Cawn, delivered the Management for a Year, to Alagappah Moodely. The Moodely's Collection were

for AD 1756 or Fusly 1166 . 6,35,435 : 9 : 18 3/4

17. The distracted State of the Country owing to the depredation of the Poligars, required a greater Energy for their reduction, than Allagappah Moodely brought to this arduous undertaking, & Isoof Cawn was appointed to the Sole Charge from the Year 1757 to 1763 he accordingly continued to rule in the Country & during this Period his annual Collections were as follow –

Aumil in the Year	Names of the Year AD	Fusly	Tinnivelly Province CChs / fs. C
Isoof Cawn	July 1757	1167	5,83,746 .. 9 .. 3
	do 1758	1168	6,63,544 .. 5 .. 25 1/2
	do 1759	1169	7,74,079 .. 9 .. 45 3/4
	do 1760	1170	10,80,489 .. 2 : 18
	do 1761	1171	12,44,580 .. 4 : 18
	do 1762	1172	11,44,217 .. 2 : 27
	do 1763	1173	10,53,284 36

18. During the three first Years of Isoof Cawn's management he was engaged in constant Struggles with the Poligars, with very anxious Success: the necessities of the Company during this anxious Period in the Carnatick demanded the Employment of his Force, and of his extraordinary Military talents in more central parts of it – Tinnivelly was therefore left in his absence a prey to the depredations of the Poligars, and the perfidious machinations of Maufooz Cawn, aided by the Adherents of Travancore the latter indeed wholly assumed during this Period the most fertile Talook of the Province, Calcaud, but when Isoof Cawn could be spared from the

Siege

Siege of Madras to return to Tinnivelly, he had the address not only to detach the Rajah of Travancore from the League, but to acquire his Assistance in punishing the Poligars: Notwithstanding the disadvantages (under which he laboured) of an usurped Authority, he accomplished by the Vigor of his Mind and Military Talents, the Complete Subjugation of the Province In his time the tribute of the Poligars was regularly collected, private property was in no danger from their depredations and the Revenue of the Circar Lands was very largely increased. The effect of the Subordination he established, may be seen in his Collections from the Year 1761 to 1764, when they never fell below 10.30.489 and were in one so high as 12.44.530—

19 To Isoof Cawn succeeded one of the Family of the Moobelys— his Management however continued but for Eight Months, when he was displaced by a Hindoo, named Rajah Hukoomut Ram. The Collections of his Management fell considerably short of those of Isoof Cawns, and his immediate Successor Shaik Mahomed Ally, who was in Charge of the Country for Nine Months reduced them still more tempted by the imbecility of their Superintendance, the Poligars returned to their former licentiousness and continued in the indulgence of their inveterate Habits of Encroachment, and Violence with little intermission from that period until their transfer to the Company's Authority in 1792 nor did even this arrangement produce that Improvement in the Conduct & Condition of these Feudatories which had been hoped from it, the fluctuating administration of the Nabob, had given such Confidence and Success to their rebellious Character, and the Weak Policy & Corruption of his Aumils had encouraged & confirmed in the Poligars so strong an influence over the Minds of

This

His Highnesses Subjects, that under the Weakness of a divided Authority, a solid Reform was impracticable. the Vigour of Isoof Cawns measures was indeed felt for some little time after he suffered the death of a Rebel, but the Poligars soon forgot the terror of his name, and relapsed into former habits. The following Statements of Collections under Hookamut Ram and his Successor is annexed in elucidation—

	AD	Fusly	
Dalaway Alagappa Moodely from 26th March to 10th Novr.	1764	1174	13,72,262 : 1 : 15
	1765	1175	12,39,818 . 3 . 33
	1766	1176	9,58,295 . 3 : 39
	1767	1177	8,66,458 . 9 : 30
	1768	1178	8,19,761 . 8 . 15
up to 10th Arpesey or Octr. 1180.	1769	1179	8,96,483 : 5 : 9
Shaik Mahomed Ally to 30th June	1770	1180	7,39,035 : 6 : 30

20. Of the foregoing Periods of the Mussulmen Government of Tinnivelly I have not been able to obtain the particular Accounts, the Cutchery of Tinnivelly with all the Duftur having been burnt about this Period: but from the date to which this Account is now brought down Vizt. the

No. 6 Year 1771. I am enabled to submit to you the Accounts of Cultivation and Collection in a detailed Shape—

21. In this Year (1771) commenced the administration of Syed Mahomed Cawn and from thence to the Year 1801 comprizes a period of thirty Years. the Average Collections during this time have been 8,41,116. 6. 39 and in the course of it has accrued a balance upon the nominal Settle-ments of no less than 21,29,220 . 7 : 24—

22. The Average Cultivation of this period

exclusive

exclusive of Maunom, Cuddapatam & Wagay Arappa Lands, has been Yearly in Nunjeh 53,513: 16: 3¾ Cott. M. M. during Syed Mahomed Cawns Management of the Country the Collections were unusually high - a dreadful Famine afflicted the Province from a Scarcity of Grain, the Effects of which are still to be traced in the Ruins of Villages, then filled with a numerous Population - This Calamity happened in A.D 1774 or Fusly 1184, the Average Price of Grain was 20 fanams & 26¾ Cash, and although the Cultivation amounted to no more than 37,685: 10: 4 1/16 Cottahs of Nunjeh, the Revenue of the Year came to 11,54,944 Chut. The following Year of 1185 Fusly, the Average Price of Grain remained so high as 19 F. 6 Cash and the Summahbundy was formed for 10,52,131 Chu. but Syed Mahomed Cawn being removed in the Course of the Year there accrued a Balance of 2,13,539 from the Fusly Year 1186 to 1190 the Extent of Cultivation & the price of Grain were better regulated but in the Fusly 1190 the Poligars again tempted by the War which raged in the Carnatick threw off their Alligiance and nearly overrun the Province - the Collections for 1190 amounted only to 4,09,425 Chu. for the Year 1191 to 3,69,404 Chut. and for 1192 to 5,37,487, in 1193 Commenced Mr Irwins or the Company's Administration from that Period until 1198 Fusly, the Cultivation of Nunjeh fluctuated from fifty to Sixty thousand Cottahs - the Average Price from 15 to 17 fanams and the annual Collections from 8 to 9 Lacks of Chuckrums in the Succeeding Year of 1198 the Collections were enlarged, but that augmentation arose not so much from an Increase of Cultivation as from the enhancement of the Price which was raised to 18 fan. 11 Cash, yielding a Revenue in Nunjeh of 5,95,830 . 2. 16½ and in the aggregate of 9,51,375 . 4 . 43½ in the

94

the Year 1199 the Cultivation was greatly increased and the Produce nearly Sixty thousand Chuckrums more, but as the Price of Nursyh fell to 16 fanams ℔ Cottah, the Revenue amounted to only about 400 Chuckrums more than the last Year –

23.^d Three of the most favorable Years for the Cultivation during the last thirty Years were those which succeed Viz.^t Fasly 1200. 1201 & 1202 when the Cultivation & Produce were as shewn in the Margin ⊗ in the two former Mr Torin had the Management of the Country the Governments Share was (the rented) most abundant, and the price of Grain low – in 1200 it was at 14 fan.^s 15 Cash & in 1201 – 15 f.^s 33 Cash

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	Cottahs of Cultivation		Governments Share
1200	65,096: 14: 5¼	…	4,00,310: 3: 3¾
1201	68,317: 2: 6¼	…	3,60,177: 15: 5¼
1202	59,500: 7: 14	…	3,54,615: 11: 4½

24. The Renters Collections of Mr. Torins Years including Pagoda Charges, were for the first 8,95,690 & for the Second 8,08,501 – The Rent for 1200 was 795,971: 2 for 1201 817,067 the deficiency of Collections in this Year was occasioned by the restoration of the Country to the Nabob – In 1202 succeeded for a short period Jaffier Cawn, and to him Etbaur Cawn who continued in the Management for three Years – The Cultivation & Produce were as shewn in the Margin ⊗ & his Collections for the first Year were 1051,999: 1: 13¾ In 1203 – 1182,287: 9: 16½ In 1204 – 1024,792: 7: 21 The Average Price of Grain in 1202 was 19 f.^s 33 Cash In 1203 – 26 f.^s 33¾ & in 1204 – 21 f.^s 19½ Cash making an Average of 22 f.^s 18¾ – With the knowledge of these facts

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	Cultivation Cottahs of Seed		Governments Share
1203	52,128: 7: 2½	…	314,814: 2: 4
4	53,514: 3: 7	…	318,223: .: 1½
5	56,803: 6: 3½	…	324,408: 6: 7

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it will appear very natural that the Inhabitants should look back to the Companys Management as an Aera of Comparative Happiness and contrast it in a very feeling manner with the three Succeeding Years of Extortion under Etbaur Cawn, when the System of Mortgage, and Gadayom prevailed in its worst rigour. From these intolerable oppressions, the Inhabitants fled in numbers to Travancore, and the ruin of the Country was fast approaching, but the fears of the Nabob were at length roused to the Calamities of the Country by the remonstrances of the Right Honorable Lord Hobart – The accuracy with which the Evils of this System were developed: the determination subsequently shewn by the Companys Government to put an end to them, & especially the Establishment of the Commercial Investment about this Period may be said, with the strictest truth. to have arrested the destruction of Tinnivelly; for the alarm excited at His Highness's Durbar, and in the breast of all those who participated in these Enormities materially changed the nature of His Highness's Management The System of usurious mortgage grew from that Period into desuse, for those pernicious transactions which had before covered the Province were of a very different Character from the inferior advantages that a few Adventurers or subsequently derived from a Partial & fearful Monopoly of Grain. In consequence of this Change, the Average Price of Grain from Fusly 1205 to 1209 did not rise higher than 17 Fanams 18 Cash, and was sometimes so low as 15. nor can this reduction be accounted for upon the ground of an abundant Produce, as the Account in the Margin ✕ will shew – in no Year did it rise

96

× Fusly — Cultivated Cottahs of Seed — Share to the Circar of the Produce

1206	51,664 : . 5½	280,960 : 1 : 9¾
7	45,317 : 9 : 6	249,071 : 10 : 6
8	41,913 : 4 : 6¾	246,500 : . 3¾
9	46,978 : 6 : 6¼	257,798 : 11 : 1¾

above 52,000 Cottahs and in 1208 was down so low as 41,913 — In a former Year (Sied Mahomed Cawn) when the Produce was nearly the same, the price ℘ Cottah was thirty fanams, and in one of Ettaur Cawn's Years, when the Collection amounted to 52,123 Cotts. the price ℘ Cottah was 26 Fs 3¾ Cash —

25. Having thus made such general remarks upon each Year of the detailed Accounts of Cultivation and Collection herewith submitted, as appeared to me necessary to elucidate them, I shall add a Summary View of the Nunjeh Cultivation & Produce in three different Periods of the last thirty Years, for your more easy Comparison of them with the Cultivation & Produce of the Present Fusly.

26. The Average Collection in the Car Crop for the last ten Years deducting Maunium, Cowle Pautam & Wagay Arappoo Lands amounted to 16,016 Cotts. : 18 ms. & 2⅝ meas. the Cultivation of the same description for the ten preceding Years amounted to 16,976 Cottahs 5 Mercals & 2⅞ measts. & the Cultivation for the ten Years preceding the last Period to 17,265 Cottahs 6 Mercals & 5¼ Measures, giving a Total within the 30 Years of 50,288 Cottahs 9 Mercals & 2½ Measures, or an average of 16,762 : 17 : ⅞ ℘ Year the Average Circars Share for the first Period of ten Years amounted to 104,925 Cottahs. 3 Mercals & 5¼ Measures for the second Period of ten Years to 116,301 : 4 : ¾ and for the third Period 134,551 : 9 : 4¼ giving a Total of 355,777 Cotts. 17 Mercals & 2¼ Measures or an Average during the thirty Years of 118,592 Cott : 11 Mcl : 6 Mea — The Car Cultivation of the present Year has amounted to 19,567 Cottahs 19 M. 5¼ Measts. & the Produce

thereof

thereof to 125,989 Cottahs 20 Mercals 2¾ Meas: being 7·397·7·4¾ above the Average Produce of the last 30 Years, or ℔ Cent 6:4:7½.

97 27. The Average Cultivation of Peshanom for the first period of ten Years above alluded to, was 27,169 Cottahs 13 Mercals & 5¾ Measures for the second Period 34,945 Cottahs 1 Mercal & 5½ Measures, and for the third 38,137 Cott: 14: Mer 5 Mea making the total Average of thirty Years 36,784 Cott: 5 Mer: 7¼ Mea. The Peshanom Cultivation of the Present Year amounted to 47,322 Cott: 16 Mercals 1 Measure being an increase upon the Average of 10538 Cott: 3 Mercals 2 Measures, making a total Increase in Car & Peshanom Seed of the Nunjeh Cultivation of the present Year upon the Average of the last thirty Years of 12,343 Cottahs 12 Mercals & 6¾ Meas: giving an Increase in the Nunjeh Cultivation of the present Year of more than 23:2:5¾ ℔ Cent — The Peshanom Crop not being reaped the exact Produce cannot at present be ascertained & therefore the Comparison cannot be made —

28. The measures adopted to establish by an increase of the Cultivation a just foundation for an increase of the Resources in the present Year having been explained I shall briefly call your attention to the terms of the Settlement concluded with the Inhabitants of the Villages — It would be a waste of time to detail the objections which the Ryots urged to the responsibility of a Money Rent or the Arguments which I used to reconcile them to it. It is sufficient to observe that I acted up fully to your Instructions expressive of your anxiety to introduce this System of Management, and that it was established by the means which had before enabled me to complete your Wishes in the Province of Ramnad — My Jumma & Kistbundy I have the honor to submit for your Information, & beg leave to request your attention to the annexed Comparative Statement

ment of the Revenues of the present Year compared with the Collections of the last thirty –

29. The whole of this Settlement was at the first concluded in Money, but finding that the hopes of those Soucars & Conicopolys who before dealt so largely in Grain (equally to the Loss of the Circar & of the Ryot) were received by this Arrangement, & that they were contriving to depreciate the value of the Produce, it became a measure of indispensible regard to the Welfare of the People to receive some of the Settlement in Grain at the Summabundy Price – by this Arrangement the market is at the Command of Government, no Combination can be made to undervalue the Grain and again rather than Loss will arise in the Sale of it, for in my Summahbundy I have estimated its Average Price no higher than 13 1/16 Pᵒ Cottah – if the Wants of the Military & Commercial Departments of this Province were likely to be beyond the means of answering them, I should have been very anxious to complete the Collection of the whole Settlement in Money within the Fusly, but the means at present in my hands, and the Kists falling due in Cash will independant of the gradual Sales of Grain, be far beyond what is likely to be required for those Advances –

30. The Dowle Accounts upon which the Settlement was formed shew distinctly the rates & rules of division in each Talook, the proportion of Nunjeh, Punjeh, and Naurapore Lands, the usual deductions before the division of the Crop and every other particular relative to the Settlement but as they are extremely voluminous, I shall forbear to have them copied until I know it to be the Boards pleasure that they be sent – At the same time I take the liberty of

expressing

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expressing my opinion of the greater Expediency of furnishing in an English Form the actual Teerwa Accounts of the Year, as soon after it has closed, as it may be possible to prepare them for the present I shall observe that in calculating the portion of Grain forthcoming to the Sirkar from the Nunjeh and thence the Amount for which it should be rented, I followed the established Scale of Partition during many former Years - The Durmasenum Lands watered by the River Tambravurney were rated Share & Share alike upon the enquiries detailed in No. 10 and in the Grounds watered from Tanks the Several Rates of Division long established in the Talooks as particularly shewn in the Accompanying Statement were observed - In judging of the fertility of the Lands I was guided Chiefly by the actual Produce of the Car Crop and the average of former Years, and in adjusting the Price I made such deduction from the Average Sales of the Car Grain as might leave to the Ryot a fair compensation for the responsibility of a Money Rent - The Ready Money Collections are enterd according to the Mamool of thirty Years, and the Taxes upon Dry Grain Land agreeable to the numberless rates and measurements which have been created in the course of many Years - The Simplification of these latter Rates is a tedious measure in which I am now engaged, & upon which, if I can accomplish any thing Satisfactory, I shall address you at a future Period

Charges 31. In recollecting the State of the Southern Pollam Countries at the time I received Charge of Tinnevelly the commotions amongst the Cavelgars that were to be calmed, the confusion in the Collections that was to be regulated, and the perplexities in the Accounts that were to be disentangled, you will I trust be of opinion that in my establishment of Servants for the accomplishment of all those important Objects, a due regard has been had to

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29. an economical approbation of the public Money — My Original Establishment amounted as detailed in the Enclosure to the Monthly Charge of Cully Chuckrums 7438:4 or St. Pag. 4508:5:8 being Nos. 9.25.9 ℔ Cent upon the Revenues of the Circar Lands for Cutchery Division & Talook Charges — but when I had made considerable Progress in accomplishing the various Points for which this expenditure was at first necessary, I applied myself to a complete revision of all the Charges of Collection incurred at this Station in Order that I might reduce them within as narrow limits, as was possible, without hazarding the peace of the Country. The Original Establishment for the Sequestered Pollams, Assigned Peshcush, and Tinnivelly Circar Lands, amounted as you will observe from the enclosed Comparative Statement (exclusive of the Establishment for collecting the Desha Cavel) to 9824:3.27 Cully Chut. or Star Pagodas 5954:6:42 ℔ Month or ℔ Annum 71.449:36:24 —

The Establishment which I ultimately judged necessary for the whole Province including the Polygars, Sequestered Pollams and Assigned Peshcush amounts only to Chs. 7120:9 ℔ Month being a decrease ℔ Month upon the Original Moyenzabitas of C. Chut. 2703:4:27 Star Pagodas 1638:19:20 or a reduction ℔ Annum of Star Pag. 19.661:21:56 —

32. This Establishment is exactly Nos. 6:7:4 3/4 ℔ Cent upon the Collections, and would have been reduced still more if I had not thought it more consistent with His Lordships Orders to dismiss entirely the Circar Sibbendies, and substitute a smaller Number of Peons for the performance of their duties — The Charge authorized by Government for Circar Sibbendy amounting to Star Pagodas 660:17.5 accordingly ceased in the Month of February 1802 — If upon experience I find that a further reduction of the Present Establishment can be made, I shall propose it with

with the greatest Satisfaction, but if on the other Hand it shall appear that my anxiety not to burthen the Company with one unnecessary Charge has led me to curtail it to the prejudice of the publick Service I shall not hesitate to point out the Defect – In the Establishment which is now submitted, Provision is made for having a party of Peons in constant readiness at my Cutchery, to move it into any Talook where they may be required, for experience has shewn that in the Seizure of Plunderers, refractory Cavelgars &ca this description of force is far preferable to regular Seapoys –

33. The acknowledged necessity & Policy of remunerating the Servants who may be selected to hold the principal Situations in a Collectors Cutchery, with such a Salary as may leave them without a Pretext for resorting to unfair Means for a Subsistence, preclude my troubling you with any detailed explanation upon this Subject – It will, I have no doubt, be sufficient for you to know that my Choice has fallen upon Persons properly qualified for their trusts, and this conviction will be best conveyed by an Appeal to the exertions of my Native Servants during the disturbances, and the Success of all the Arrangements since attempted to be established – At the close of the Year I shall consider it a Duty I owe to the public Service, and an act of Justice to Individuals to name those who have particularly distinguished themselves by a zealous and faithful discharge of their trusts, for it is, and will continue to be, an additional Stimulant to their Exertions to know that they are not unregarded, and to hope that they may not pass unrequited by you –

34. The Charges incurred from the Period of transfer until the Month of February amounted to the total Sum of S.Pa 30,805: 1: 49 for which I request that his Lordships Sanction may be obtained and communicated to the Civil Auditor, and that from the 1st of March the reduced Establishment on account of Tinnivelly,

Sequestered

Sequestered Pottams, and Assigned Pettaush amounting to CChs 7120 ℗ Month, or St Pags 4318:29:22 may receive the approbation of Government, as well for what remains of the present as for the whole of the ensuing Fusley -

Charges of Pagodas, 35. With the exception of the Talook Enams, Maunioms, of Sheulpatore, all the Lands belonging to Coule pautom &ca the principal Pagodas in the Province were assumed by the Circar, above fifty Years ago, and an allowance in Money established for their Support - During the Mussulman Govt this was a fund upon which the unprincipal Servants preyed with Impunity, to the distress, and discomfort of every well disposed, and pious Hindoo in the Province - To this contempt and indifference in the Government to the Comforts & Ceremonies of their religion, is to be attributed much of the aversion of the native Inhabitants to the Nabobs Administration, and nothing can tend so directly to establish the Company's Government in the good Wishes & affections of the People, as the just appropriation of what is actually due to the Pagodas, accompanied by the demonstration of a sincere desire to aid all their religious and Charitable designs & Establishments.

36 From these Motives I have endeavoured by a constant attention to the regulation & Countenance of all their daily expences and appointed Festivals, those grand Sources of Happiness & Pride with all Hindoos, to make the Contrast between the late and the present Management as favorable to the Company as possible - Of the Amount disbursed in the Principal Pagodas since the transfer I inclose for your Information

No 14 a particular Statement, and of the Maunioms enjoyed in land

15 by the Lesser Temples an Account is also transmitted - That the Limits of these Enams as well as of those granted to Individuals have been in this as in every other Country -

surreptitiously enlarged, is not to be doubted but the minute Investigation and actual Survey indispensable to ascertain the extent of these petty Encroachment cannot be accomplished without the enjoyment and application of much leisure time, a desideration which you will readily admit has not yet fallen to my Lot — To recommend therefore any resumptions upon the Surmise of an invalid tenure would not be consistent with that tenderness for the Rights of Individuals which you desire may distinguish the Company's Administration, and hence I have yet attempted nothing more than to form a Register of them, in order that they may not be in future fraudently increased — Upon the Establishment of the Judicial Courts the whole will of course undergo a thorough Revision, and the several Claims be confirmed or rejected as shall appear expedient & just —

Charges of Police 37. Upon the transfer of Tinnivelly in July last, the Condition of the Cavelgars, the nominal Protectors of the Villages urgently demanded my Consideration — During the Rebellion of Payalamcoorchy they fomented and aided the disturbance in every Quarter, and after the reduction of the Place many of them continued to wander about the Country in Armed Bodies plundering the Villages, robbing the People, and intimidating the Mahajens and principal Inhabitants to obtain their Pardon from the Sirkar — All the Peace & Prosperity of the Country demanded immediate measures to arrange these Disorders, and as I apprehended no ill consequence from the return of the Cavelgars to their Villages, they were invited to come in peace to their Habitations with the exception however of those whose Conduct had been particularly atrocious — Their long connexion with the Poligars and occasional Sufferings from a faithless administration created at first in their minds

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a distrust of my Intentions, but when I succeeded in convincing them of the Sincerity of the Pardon offered to the Obedient they returned and have remained from that Period, regardless of the endeavours made by Dalawoy Pillay to reduce them, in the Strict performance of all their duties. The regular enjoyment of their Russoom and Privileges seems to have converted them from Plunders to the Submissive Servants of the Sirkar, and there appears to me to be nothing wanting to destroy the Influence of the Poligars over them, and to fix their Attachment to the Company upon the Solid ground of Self Interest, but formally to relinquish all Claims upon them to Kaunikai, or Pesheush, which they were always compelled to pay to the Poligars nominally from their Russoom, but really from their
No 16 depredations. The Amount in the whole Province is as shewn in No 16 and I have given them hopes of a remission of these Sums, which I trust You will find it just & Politic to confirm. The use which they made of the Poligars Name, whilst they remained at his devotion, rendered the acquirement of this Amount a matter of perfect Facility to them at that period, but now that every effort is made to keep them rigorously to the performance of their watching duties, the whole of their Privileges are no more than sufficient for their Subsistence.

38. From the Satisfaction given by the Cawelgars in general You are aware, that I have to accept the Marava Cawelgars of Nanganchery. The notorious Profligacy and Savageness of their Character always checked any Sanguine expectation of reclaiming them, but no effort was omitted to accomplish their Reform by convincing them of the Justice of the Company's Government. But their obstinate concealment and Protection of Rebels proscribed by Lieut Col: Agnew, and their refusal to tender any Surety of their Submission and allegiance compelled the exercise

of

of that Coercion which was explained in my Correspondence of October last - upon mature investigation Lieut Col: Agnew conceived their Conduct to have been of so heinous a tendency and of such dangerous Example, as to make them fit Objects of transportation and banishment from the Country - The Eight principal Cawelgars of Nanguneherry, were accordingly sent as Convicts from Tuticorin, and the duties have been since very satisfactorily performed by the original Possessors of the Cawel of the Village, the Shanar Inhabitants.

Land Customs } 39. The abolition of all duties by Land on the transit of Grain has been a Substantial and general benefit to the Inhabitants of this Province and it will be Satisfactory to you - to observe that, notwithstanding the extent of this Indulgence, the revenues forthcoming to the Company from the Customs, are materially above the Collections of former Years - This fact is a sufficient comment upon the Attention and Propriety with which the Native Servants employed in the Sayer have fulfilled their duties, and as such I refer to it with Pleasure - to explain the nature of the arrangements and Checks which have operated to this desirable End would be an unprofitable Waste of time, it is sufficient to observe that I have endeavoured to make the Authority delegated to me pervade every part of my Trust -

Sea Customs Export & Trade & Manufactures } 40. The injurious nature of the Dutch Usurpations and asserted Privileges in the Customs, Trade & Manufactures of the Province had operated most detrimentally to the Welfare of the Country previous to the Year 1795; their expulsion from the Province at that Period, relieved the Commerce and Manufactures from restrictions under which they could never have flourished, and it is of the utmost Moment to the Prosperity of both, that the Pernicious Interference of the Dutch should not again be revived - From a conviction of the Importance of this

Question

Question to the Companys Interests in Tinnivelly, it is my intention to make it the Subject of a Separate Address to you, so soon as the Papers necessary to elucidate, it can be translated into an English Form, for the present I shall only observe that the Trade, free from Restrictions, is in a more flourishing State than it ever been before, and that the Manufactures (in number ten thousand) enjoying Security & Profit, are happy in the exercise of their Industry, and Contribute to the Prosperity of the Country –

Plantations 41. It was my intention to have included in this Report, a particular Account of the Spice Plantations of Tinnivelly, and of the measures for their disposal which appear to me most conducive to the public Advantage: but as the Season in which the Hills may be entered with less Hazard of Fever, has nearly returned, I shall delay my Report until I have personally inspected the Plants, and am enabled to furnish an exact description of the whole –

Repair of Tanks & Watercourses 42. Upon the transfer of the Country the principal Inhabitants applied with great earnestness for the aid of the Company in Repairing Tanks & nullahs, which since the extinction of the Hindoo Government had gone uninterruptedly to decay but as it was not practicable at that Moment for me to judge, where, in so extensive a Country, the Public Money might be applied with the largest benefit to this important Object, I stipulated with the Meerasdars that until time and leisure should enable me to recommend to you with Confidence, disbursements for these indispensable Works, that they should bear the Expense of such temporary Repairs as they declared to be necessary, subject to the Inspection of the Circar Servants to assist the proper application of the Money – The Amount thus

disbursed

disbursed has been S.Pag^s. 5,419: 31. 65½ and the Inhabitants have wholly defrayed it: they look however with Confidence to the future liberal aid of the Company, to restore the Tanks & nullahs to a proper State, and such is at present their decayed State that many Cottahs of Seed perish yearly from want of Water, and to extend the Cultivation beyond the Quantity of the present Year may be declared impracticable, until the Repairs, of which I submit the necessary Estimates, have been completed the whole amount proposed to be disbursed in this Year comes to 15,000 Star Pagodas and every attention shall be used to ensure a just application of the Amount – It was my intention in the early part of the Year to have proposed the Expenditure of a much larger Sum, but Some Showers of Rain which recently fell have replenished the Tanks and render it expedient to wait to a future Season – I take this occasion also of requesting your Authority to advance on account of Tuccavy to such of the poorer Inhabitants as actually require this aid, to the extent of 36,000 Chut- in Money or Grain, as may appear expedient, and the Amount will be made repayable with the earliest receipts of the Coming Year –

43. Upon the Settlement of the approaching Fusly, I am also anxious to receive your Instructions before the Season in which exertions can be made by the Ryots for the Cultivation of the Car Crop has passed – Although in this Report upon the Circar Lands of Tinnevelly, I have aimed only to give to the Board a general View of the past Situation of the Country, and of its present actual Condition, I yet hope that it may be found sufficiently particular to be taken as the foundation for recommending to His Lordship the renewal of the present Settlement in the Year to come – That the Ryots would be Satisfied with and benefit by this Arrangement I have great Confidence, for the advantages

which self Interest would induce them to give in Labour & Manure, to their Cultivation would materially increase their Produce. Notwithstanding however the confidence I have that the present Settlement is not higher than the means of the Inhabitants can permanently afford, yet if the Teerwa Accounts should prove that my own Anxiety to augment the public Receipts, the Confidence of the principal Inhabitants in my profession for their Welfare, and the Ignorance of the lower Ryots of their own Interests, have persuaded them into Agreements which prove oppressive to them, I shall not hesitate to point out my Error, in the Confidence that you would deem it highly culpable in me, to seek an unearned approbation for any Increase that tended to undermine the fair resources of the Country – If on the other Hand experience should convince me, in the Interval of receiving your reply to this Letter, that the public Demands may be yet more augmented with due regard to the Welfare of the People, I shall not fail to propose such Increase in the approaching Settlement, and to explain to you fully the Grounds upon which it is founded –

Petition from the Canungoe of Tinnivelly No. 18

44. Although the accompanying Petition from the Canungoe of Tinnivelly was presented to me some time ago with the request that it might be forwarded for your Consideration, I thought it proper to delay the transmission of it until a further experience of his Conduct should enable me to pronounce

Remarks upon his Conduct & Privileges.

upon the nature of his Claims to your Indulgence – the general Character which Baubos Row had borne in this Province prior to the transfer, and the knowledge which I had myself obtained of his disposition and acquirements had given me an Impression highly in his favour, but when

he refused to comply with my desire that he should bind himself by a Muchilka to become answerable for the Conduct of his Gomastahs in the Talooks, it was obvious that without such Security from him, no reliance could not be placed in the propriety or fidelity of their Service I considered it therefore my duty to suspend the enjoyment of his Privileges until your pleasure should be known, and I now transmit
N°9 to you a particular Estimate of them for the present Fusly — The Accounts which I received from him in the Year 1799 regulated the assumption of all the Usurpations of the Poligar at that Period, and I never had any reason to suspect that they were in any particular inaccurate prior to the transfer of the Circar Lands to my Superintendance — Since that Event all the Accounts I have received and have compared with those delivered by him, as well as my own Enquiries & occasional Measurement have entirely confirmed the opinion I formerly had of the accuracy of his Office, and the very complete State of his Accounts for the last thirty Years of the Mussulman Govt. shew that the business has been conducted with a regularity, not I believe to be found in any other part of the Carnatick, where a Canongoe has been established — Without attempting to controvert the reasoning and facts which have led to the general abolition of the Canongoes Department it still is an act of Justice that I owe to a very respectable Family to State to you that the Conduct of the Canongoe, and his relations, principal Gomastahs under him has been such as to entitle them to your most indulgent Consideration —

45. In concluding this lengthened detail relative to the Settlement of the Circar Lands of Tinnivelly for the present Fusly 1211 some Apology might appear necessary for so long an Intrusion, if I were not sensible that the time which is employed to convince you that the augmentation of the present Settlement

upon

upon the public Collections (for it is vain to conjecture what was received in private Nuzzer & bribes) in former Years is not beyond the Ability of the Country how far that Increase of Mr Lushingtons Settlement Pr Cent –

Upon the Collection of the last Year	37. 5. 20 1/4
Upon the Average of the last five Years	28. 9. 46 1/4
Upon the Average of the last ten Years	11. 2. 41 1/16
Upon the first Year of Mr Torins Rent	12. 8. 34 3/16
Upon the Second Year of Mr Torins Rent	7. 3. 11 3/4
Upon the Average of the last twenty Years	17. 4. 41
Upon the Average of the last thirty Years	14. 4. 16 1/4

This Comparison is exclusive of the Usurpations resumed from the Poligars many of which having been made in the course of the last 30 Years might be included in that Years Jumma and contrasted with some of the Periods for which the Comparison is made materially to the advantage of the present Settlement

46. Jummabundy of the Tinnivelly Poligars –

The large increased Settlement made with the Poligars of Tinnivelly in Fusly 1209, and regularly collected as well in that as in the last Year of doubt and distraction has been received with them in the present Period of order and tranquility to say that they have been peaceable & punctual in the present Fusly after the proof afforded in the preceding Year, of their Submission and obedience appears almost unnecessary my Demand Collection & Balance will have shewn to the Board the progressive regularity of their Payments, & I am happy now to add that there is not a fanam outstanding from any Poligar from the Current Parter their
No 20 Jumma & Kistbundy is forwarded for your Inspection –

47. Jumma of the Tinnivelly Sequestered Pollams

The Disturbances which agitated Naglapore

in the last Year, & the alarm which disquieted the whole of the Sequestered Pollams drove some of the Inhabitants for refuge to neighbouring Talooks. It was therefore a primary object upon the restoration of tranquility to them to return to their Villages, & that they might have an opportunity of repairing the losses inevitable from the passage of armed bodies, whether friendly or hostile, in the neighbourhood of their Villages it appeared to me expedient to continue to them the terms of Settlement concluded in the preceding Year - I have accordingly now the honor to submit the Jumma
No 21) & Kistbundy of the Sequestered Pollams for the present Fusly; & hope that its Amount may be satisfactory -

48. As there are several Tanks that stand much in need of Repair in these Countries I beg leave to call your
22) attention to the accompanying Estimates amounting to 2000 Chuckrs & that they may be recommended to His Lordships Sanction - I request also Authority to advance 2000 Chuckrums for Tuccavy to such Inhabitants as actually require this Assistance -

Peshcush of Shevagunga

49. The Settlement of Shevagunga in the present continues the same as in the preceding Year, but the Zemindar has additionally paid two thirds of the balance due by the late rebellious Minister - upon the subject of increasing the Tribute of this Zemindar I shall address you so soon as I have obtained the Accounts necessary for forming my own Judgement & for this purpose I have adopted all the measures that appear to me to be practicable -

Jummabundy of Ramnad

50. My progressive Reports upon the extreme favorableness of the Season and of the State of the Cultivation in Ramnad, will have prepared you to expect the Completion of an advantageous Settlement of that Province in the present Year -

I

112
113, 114, 115, 116 are the Blank Pages

I have accordingly the Satisfaction of laying before you a Summa Mr. 43:17:58 P Cent above the average Collections since that Province came under the Company's Management -

112

The Employment of my own time during the first Months of the transfer of Tinnivelly, in arranging that extensive Country, and in watching over its dependant Polygars precluded my giving more than a general Superintendance to Ramnad - Under this pressure of Duty it was pleasing to me to hope that the detail of Management in that District which I committed to Mr Parish My Head Assistant would suffer nothing from my absence & the attention and Success with which he has executed all my Instructions & particularly in framing a Settlement with the Inhabitants of Villages upon the principles of the last having a just Consideration for the Rights of Government and a due Regard to the actual Condition of the Ryots, has fully justified

No 23 that confidence - The Summa & Kistbundy of Ramnad I have now the honor to lay before you as formed by Mr Parish and after an attentive examination of it with the Accounts of Cultivation which have already been Submitted to you, I find nothing to

No 24 alter or amend - Copy of Mr Parish's Letter to me upon this Occasion I have also the pleasure to enclose, and am happy to assure the Board, that the Conduct of this Gentleman in the discharge of all his Duties has my entire approbation & Confidence -

I have the honor to be with
great Respect
Gentlemen
Your most Obedient faithful
Servant
Signed / S. Lushington
Collr of Tin. & R.

Tinnivelly
28th May 1802

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112

117

Mr. Lushington's Report. 30th Septr. 1802

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To

The President and Members of the Special Commission

Gentlemen,

1 I have now the honor to lay before you the Statements upon which I conceive that the permanent assessment for the Zemindary of Ramnad may be Satisfactorily Regulated by the Commission. The delay which would inevitably arise from any endeavour to submit these ~~[illegible]~~ Documents in a More detailed shape, will I hope be a Sufficient justification of the abstract form in which they now appear before you, and whatever may be additionally required for Magauns and Villages shall be furnished with all possible expedition.

117

2 The first statement shews the public Revenues under every different head of Nunjeh, Nungehmel Panjeh, Pungeh Soomadayum, and Chank and Chaya from the Assumption of the [illegible] (exclusive of the first [illegible] Months) until the end of the last Fusley.

No 2 is a Statement of Charges hitherto incurred by the Company which will cease upon the establishment of the Permanent Assessment.

No 3 Is the proposed permanent Jummah and Kistbundy.

No 4 An allotment of Purgunahs as Pledges for the due payment of the several Kists.

3 Although the Collections of my own Management are much higher than those which preceded, they do not appear to me entirely a proper Basis for the Assessment now to be established in perpetuity, I shall therefore compare their average with the Receipts to the Company in former fuslies, and add such remarks as appear to me to justify this opinion.

For Fusley

	1205			1206			1207			1208			1209		
	Star Pags	f	c.	Star Pags	f	c.	Star Pags	f	c.	Star Pags	f	c.	Star Pags	f	c.
Collections of the Ramnad Province exclusive of Sayer and Salt	131,207	16	27/	133,391	16	15	94,882	33	.	65,127		31	33/	152,315	13	[illegible]

1210			1211	
Star Pags	f	c	Star Pags	f
155,181	28	.	185,625	14

118

		Star Pag.s	f	c
Revenue of the Years preceding Mr. Lushington's Management	1205	131,207	18	27½
	1206	133,391	16	15
	1207	94,882	33	"
	1208	65,127	31	33½
Collections of Mr. Lushington	1209	152,315	13	44¾
	1210	155,181	28	"
	1211	185,625	14	"
Fusley	1209	152,315	13	44¾
Average of the Preceding 4 Years		106,152	14	19
Increase in	1209	46,162	41	25¾
Fusley	1210	155,181	28	"
Average of the 4 Years		106,152	14	19
Increase in	1210	49,029	13	61
Fusley	1211	185,625	14	"
Average of the 4 Years		106,152	14	9
Increase	1211	79,472	41	61
Average of Mr. Lushington's 3 Years		164,374	4	41½
Average of the 4 Years preceding		106,152	14	19
Average Increase		58,221	32	22½
Total Increase of Mr. Lushington's 3 Years	Fusley 1209	46,162	41	25¾
	Do. 1210	49,029	13	61
	Do. 1211	79,472	41	61
Star Pagodas		174,665	12	67¾

5 From this Statement it will appear to the Commission that the Revenues have progressively increased during the three Years in which I have been charged with the Management of Ramnad in the following proportions — In the 1st Year 43½ per Cent upon the Average of the preceding years

119

Years — In the 2nd 46 pr. Cent, and in the last Fusly the augmentation upon the average of former Years rose so high as 74 pr. Cent making the average Increase of my own three Years upon the Revenues of former Years more than fifty four pr. Cent. —

6 — As this Revenue has been punctually realized without Complaint, it might be presumed that no Means had been practised to undermine the growing prosperity of the Country; but an evidence more substantial than this presumption will be found in the Circumstance which I have the satisfaction of stating to you, that the Ryots have benefited by the last Settlement in no less a Sum than 30,374-29-4 Star Pagodas —

7 In 1209 the Season was moderately favorable; In 1210 nearly the same; In 1211 the rain fell in due time, and with unusual abundance. Considering however the extraordinary uncertainty of Seasons in Ramnad, two Moderate, and One favorable Year cannot be deemed a proper foundation for a permanent Assessment, I have therefore added to them two of Mr. Powney's, and one of Mr. Jackson's Fuslies, and I think no circumstance can occur to render a Peshcush fixed according to the Zemindary principle upon this foundation, either burthensome to the Ranee or oppressive to the Inhabitants, protected as they will be by the Judicial Courts in the enjoyment of those rules and rates of assessment by which the Revenues have been

been Collected during the last three Years — The detail of these rates has been given in my previous reports and they are contained in every Talook Cutchery. In cases therefore where specific pecuniary Engagements shall not have superseded the necessity of further enquiry the previous Mamool can be at once distinctly ascertained —

120

8 The permanent Peshcush which upon these grounds I have suggested for your Consideration amount to Star Pagodas 94,733 — exactly 2/3 of the gross receipts from the Province during the Six Years for which the average is taken — It is also within a thousand Pagodas of the Average net Revenue derived by the Company during their whole Management of Ramnad it is more than the Net Revenue preceding my Management by 33 p^r. Cen^t. and it exceeds the Peshcush paid by the former Zemindar More than 50 p^r. Cent. or in the Sum of 33875-15 Pagodas exclusive of Salt and Sayer to be retained in the Lands of Government or abolished according to their pleasure —

9 Such are the terms which the experience that I have acquired of the resources of Ramnad suggested to Me as equitable and Moderate, and in this consideration I have attentively weighed the expediency of Augmenting the Jumma to Government upon the presumption of an Increase of Revenue under the System of property and Security about to take place, but the enjoyment of advantage from any improvement in the repairs of Tanks &^c. is so precarious in conse-quen

121

quence of the Extraordinary uncertainty of the Sea=
sons in Ramnad, that I should not feel my=
self justified in recommending any increase
upon such uncertaining expectations.-

10- In Ramnad, there is no Class of people possessing any rights of the Nature of Talookdars, and therefore in confirming the proprietory right of the Rannee to the lands (with the exception of those alienated and not paying public Revenue), the right of no other Individual will be violated, the Ryots will of course be firmly maintained and protected by the Judicial Court in their privelege, of cultivating the Soil, and of receiving their accustomed share.-

11- The Registers of Curnums are now making out, and shall be immediately forwarded, these are the only Revenue Officers in Ramnad of Police, with the exception of Cavalgars, there are none nor indeed any nominal Allowance on land for such an Establishment.-

12- Notwithstanding the pressure of severe indisposition, and the occurrence of other unavoidable obstruction to my public duties, the opinions now offered to your consideration, might have been submitted at the time I promised, but I waited to have the satisfaction of laying

before

before the Commission, a record of the resources of the Country, founded upon actual measurement such a document, I am now enabled to submit to them, and I have no doubt, it will convey to their minds, that conviction which I myself feel, that the large increase of Revenue derived to the Company during the last three years from Ramnad, has been drawn from the fair resources of the Country, and that the continuance of the Company's administration in Ramnad has fully answered the important objects, which led to its introduction Viz: relief to the people from the cruelty and tyranny of the Poligar, and the Establishment of a regular Government, equally encouraging to the agriculture, Manufacture & commerce of the Country - where the land revenue has been delivered to the possession of the Rannee, I would suggest that the allowances to the Poligar, and his family be paid by the Company, so long as they collect the Customs, and when the Sayer is abolished, the Province will receive so much advantage, that the Rannee will be fully able to discharge the Allowances from her own resources through the medium of the Collector. -

122

Shevagunga -

13 - I have already had the honor of stating to the Commission, that the impossibility of obtaining a knowledge of the revenue of Shevagunga

Shevagunga, whilst it was in the possession of the late Usurper, render a particular and personal communication with the new Zemindar, indispensable before I could venture to mention any time, as the probable period of my being enabled to furnish the information required by them for the permanent settlement of that Country.-

14- In order that I might judge how far reliance could be placed in the success of Wooya Tavers endeavours, and in the sincerety of his own inclination, and the disposition of his Servants to bring forth the real Accounts of his Country- I required from him an Estimate of the Revenues of the current year, which by the Statement, he then delivered amount in the whole to no more than 265829 C. Chs.-

15- The general knowledge; which I had obtained through different Channel of the Revenue of Sheoagunga, left me no reason to believe, that this Account nearly approached the truth; I therefore stated to Wooya Tawer my conviction of its error, and that the old Accounts of the Country, and faithfully laid before him, would shew the average receipts to be considerably more than the Amount of this Statement.-

16. With the final declaration of Wooya Tawer at this interview, you are already acquainted. Viz: that he was heartily disposed to bring forth

forth the Accounts of the Country; that he was sensible of the efforts, that would be made to Counteract him, of the vigilence, that would be necessary to give success to any Enquiry, and that the Collision of two Authorities, would defeat the objects of both; that my letters had encouraged him to look to my advice, as the certain means of relieving him in every difficulty, and of establishing him permanently, in that enviable situation, which the Proclamation of his Lordship in Council, had promised to him, secured from future distress by a Peshcush, which it would be easy for him to pay, and maintained, without fear of interruption in his possessions by the unalterable Regulations of a just Government. With these feelings, he did not hesitate to promise his concurrence in whatever arrangement I might recommend to him, and you might approve; and that even to the temporary transfer of the Country, he should be satisfied to agree, trusting that it would be done, in such a manner as to shew, that the Company had not withdrawn their favor from him.–

124

17– Being clearly of opinion, that Wooya Tavers means of Enquiry were not, that time Adequate to expose to my view, a satisfactory Account of the real resources of the Country, within any reasonable period, but that an Investigation embarrassed by this Collision of Authorities, and Interests

would

would not only prove a a a abortive, but disorder the current management of the Country in every step of its progress, I submitted to the consideration of the Commission the expediency of the temporary transfer of power in Sheveguinga, or the interposition of their authority for the appointment of some person, who might be approved by the Zemindar, and duly qualified to promote the objects of the enquiry.-

18 My own opinion decidedly inclined to the transfer, as the only measure adequate to remove all present difficulties and future doubts, and if you concurred in the expediency of it, I suggested the propriety of tempering the assignment with the feelings of the Zemindar, and with the policy which placed him in possession of the Country by issuing under his Lordship's authority, such proclamation as might leave no doubt upon any mind in respect to the temporary object of the transfer.-

19 The Commission were pleased in reply to this letter to express their Confidence in the success of my endeavours to obtain information sufficient to enable them to settle the permanent assessment of the Zemindary of Sheveguinga on principles of moderation and Justice, and relieve them from the necessity of having recourse to a measure which though sanctioned by the Zemindars concurrence might create impressions unfavorable to our Government, and to the introduction of the system

of

of permanency and security about to be established. —

20 Aware of the extreme delicacy of every question involving the remotest reference to the public faith, and feeling very forcibly the flattering confidence thus reposed in me by the Commission, I should be most seriously concerned to disappoint it. Hitherto the unceasing pressure of other duties, and a declining state of Health, have absolutely precluded a personal examination of the Villages and accounts of Shevagunga, but I have bestowed every leisure moment to the correction of all the general Statements and information received at various times since I became Collector, and I shall now briefly explain the opinion which I have formed upon the amount of Settlement to be made for this Zemindary. —

21 The Commission are aware that the Country now called Shevagunga, was originally a part of the Ramnad Raaj: that Curta Tawer the Rajah of Ramnad having devided the whole of his possessions into fifths, gave to Shasawurna Tawer two fifths, reserving three fifths for himself. — The Knowledge of this transaction, combined with the accurate information since obtained of the actual Value of Ramnad, forms a ground for judging of the resources of Shevagunga; there are however other collateral cir-cumstances which require to be examined; a very general impression prevails in these Countries that Sheshawurna

Tawer;

127

Tawar (who in comparison with Curta Tawar was a Man of considerable personal address) contrived to practise unfair means for his own advantage with the Sumpardys who regulated the division; but this design of Shashawurna Tawar is understood to have extended to the capability of the portion he obtained for future improvement, not to the actual past Value of the Raj; which was too well known to Curta Tawar and his Ministers to render any collusion practicable. But on the other hand are to be remembered the many advantages Ramnad has since that time received in consequence of its Maritime situation; from the progressive increase of its external Commerce; and the permanent establishment of a large public Investment of Cloth, which consuming the whole of its manufactures, maintains a considerable Capital circulating in the Country. Shevagunga participates but in a small degree in these advantages, and hence the sale of its produce possesses not the same certainty and advantages as Ramnad. In judging also of the future Value of Shevagunga allowance must be made for material diminution of demand for its grain in consequence of the greater abundance in the Neighbouring Villages of Madura arising from the change of Government.

22 Taking therefore into consideration these

disadvantages

128

disadvantages and maturely considering the Statement which I have now the honor to lay before you of the actual resources and collections in Shevagunga in the last Year as compiled by me from the Zemindar's own accounts

No 6. I am inclined to recommend the Sum of 75,000 Star Pags as a proper Annual Jumma for Shevagunga.—

23. The Commission will observe that it considerably exceeds two thirds of the Peshcush, I have submitted for Ramnad, and I am inclined to think that an actual investigation and Measurement of the Lands might not after much anxiety and disquietude be attend. with a better result; but if the Commission should judge this information to be too general for a permanent settlement, I would recommend a lease of five or ten Years in which time there will be ample leisure for enquiry and correction.—

24 In the latter case a proper establishment of Servants from the Collector should be in constant attendance at the Zemindar's Cutcherry to report to the Collector the progress of cultivation and collection during this period of experiment— But after attentively Weighing all the advantages of a permanent Settlement; the Motives of intrigue and alarm, and the Causes of disorder which it lays at rest; the new Springs of

general

129

general improvement and happiness which it opens, I am inclined to recommend this Sum as a permanent Jumma for Shevagunga liable to no future change. This proposed Settlement is Star Pags 25,000 Star Pags above the annual receipts from Shevagunga since it came under the Company's management, or an increase in the Annual Revenue to be derived therefrom of fifty per Centum

Tinnevelly Pollams.-

25 The several reports which I have submitted to his Lordship in Council through the Board of Revenue, as noted in the margin* describe so particularly the whole course of that reform which has been happily effected amongst the Poligars of Tinnevelly that it is now unnecessary to enlarge upon the subject.

26. In my report to the Board of Revenue of the 30th January 1800 preparatory to an increase of the Peshcush of the Tinnevelly Poligars, I submitted to them the best accounts which I had been able to procure of the resources of the Pollams - These statements were obtained, principally from the Canongoe of Tinnevelly, and were corrected by my own inquiries. The suspicion with which I had been accustomed to regard the documents of a Canongoe's office

*To the Board of Revenue dated
5th May 1799.
To Do ... 20 Aug 1799.
To Do ... 13 Sep 1799.
To Do ... 18 Do Do
To Do ... 27 Do Do
To Do ... 9 Oct 1799.
To Do ... 1 Oct Do
To Do ... 17 Nov Do
To Do ... 3d Jany 1800.
To Do ... 22 Jany 1800.
To Do ... 31 Jany 1800.
To Do ... 1 May 1800.
To Do ... 7 July 1800.
To Do ... 7 Oct 1800
To Do ... 11 Do Do
To Do ... 24 Dec 1800.
To Do ... 3 Feb 1801.
To Do ... 12 Do Do
To Do ... 31 March Do
To Do ... 7 April 1801.
To Do ... 29 May 1801.
To Do ... 20 June Do
To Do ... 23 Do
To Do ... 15 July 1801.
To Do ... 8 Aug 1801.
To Do ... 23 Oct 1801.
To Do ... 27 Do Do
To Do ... 29 Do Do
To Do ... 11 Nov Do
To Do ... 13 Dec 1801.
To Do ... 24 Dec 1801.
To Do ... 6 Jany 1802.
To Do ... 13 Do Do
To Do ... 21 Aug 1802.

130

Office, and especially of one subject to the Controul and irregularity of a Mussulman Government, would have led me at any period to place no great reliance upon accounts received through such a channel; but at that time I was the less inclined to put much faith in the statements delivered, knowing that the Fouzdar of Tinnevelly was latterly averse to the Canongoe's affording any information from his Office, and that I could afterwards obtain none but what appeared confused and mutilated — In submitting the statements previously received from the Canongoe, I therefore remarked that I could not pledge myself for their particular accuracy although from the frequent enquiries I had made to amend their errors, I considered them sufficiently correct for regulating the increase of Peshcush, then to be established — These Statements embraced as well the amount of the Cawel privileges of the Poligars then to be assumed, as the resources of their own Villages and an additional Column shewed in what degree the latter ought in my Judgement to be then additionally assessed; to these I annexed such short remarks as the particular circumstances of each Poligar seemed to require —

27. The settlement recommended upon these accounts received the approbation of Government

By

131

By what means the principal Poligars endeavoured to obtain a dimenution of it. and by what arguments it was attempted to reconcile them to a measure upon which the hope of that reform so long desired in their Conduct was principally built are known to the Commission. That their acceptance though reluctant was sincere, will have been demonstrated by my progressive reports for nearly Three years, and by the circumstance which I have the Satisfaction of stating that the increased Jumma of the two last years was compleatly collected in the Course of them - always holding in my remembrance their former irregular payment of a very inadequate tribute, and the dimenution of their means by the rigid assumption of the Desha Cawul, I had scarely hoped for the complete reform I have witnessed. but it is an act of Justice due to the Tinnevelly Poligars on this important occasion of fixing in perpetuity the foundations of their future happiness to bring fully to the notice of the Commission that every

28-

principal

132

Principal Poligar since the establishment of the increased assessment has been faithful to his allegiance, and punctual in his public payments nor can it be justly concluded that their obedience has arisen solely from the terror of Military Power, or their punctuality from any Superabounding resources - The period which has elapsed since the Commencement of this reform has not been wanting in temptations to turbulence. - whilst the statements I have now the honor of laying before you convey the best Evidence procurable by any other process than that of actual measurement of the extent of their Revenues they shew that the means of the Poligars were generally computed by the Canongoe with accuracy, and that the result of my former general enquiries were nearly correct. -

That the Canongoe's information should

29 Mll

Approach -

approach the truth, except in the particular points of error explained in the Statements, will appear as extraordinary to the Commission

133 as it did at first to me; but the extreme accuracy of his Estimate of their Cawil privileges, the real extent of which were ascertained by me beyond all doubt, together with the result of my enquiries in those Pollams which were Surrendered to me for that purpose, shew the fact: It may indeed be accounted for by remembering that the Pollams were chiefly usurpations of no very Ancient date from the Circar Lands; that the whole of them had come at different periods under the Management of the Fouzdars, who knew perfectly well their resources, and that they were disposed rather to exaggerate than to conceal the extent of their encroachments, and Violences, in order to account for failures and disappointment in the Circar Lands.

30th In some instances it will accordingly be seen that the Canongoes estimate exceeded the present Actual resources of the Pollams, particularly that of Shivagherry, in consequence of a much higher Valuation having been placed upon the grain than it can ever produce. Shevigherry itself abounds with Nunjah Cultivation, and is encompassed by some of the most fertile of the Circar Lands; the valuation which I put upon the grain of those lands in my Summabundy of the last year was ten fanams, and some part of it still remains on hand; it is very evident therefore that if the Paddy of Shivagherry were to be Valued in perpetuity at 15 fanams per Cottah, the ends of the

permanent

134

permanent Settlement would be defeated by the failure of the Poligar, and the oppression of the people. In the few instances where this error has been made in the Canongoe's Statement I have therefore
07 corrected it, and with those exceptions as explained particularly in my remarks, I have recommended the present increased Jumma as a permanent Assessment of their Lands, in the Conviction that it is equitable and Moderate —

The Nature of the permanent Settlement, and of the System of Law and Security by which it is to be enjoy by themselves and handed down to their posterity has been repeatedly explained to the Poligars, and they now await with anxious Solicitude the confirmation of a blessing which is to soften to them the remembrance of former Sacrifices — & & & & & & & & The local information indispensably necessary to pronounce upon this important question will I trust be found in the accompanying Statement, and other details of less importa shall immediately follow —

The foregoing remarks and Statement regard the principal Pollams of Ettiapoor, Sheragherry, Wootmally, Chokumputty, and Peryoor, and the lesser Pollams of Talavencotta Caduraboor Pawally, Gollaputty, Yaulornadday and Alagapoory — it remains for me therefore to offer some explanations upon the small Pollams surrendered to my own Management by the Poligars of Nadavacoorchy, Maniachy, Soorunday, Chennelgoody, Maelmunidch, Autangherry, ~ Sundyoor, Woorcaud, Tenjuhpatty, Manarcottah, and

Arradiyapoo

Aradyapoor in the conviction which they professed to feel of being unable to pay the increased Peshcush—

135

The natural aversion of every Poligar to the transfer of his Estate to other hands, and the readiness of these Poligars to submit their Pollams to any Scrutiny I might desire, certainly suggested at the time that their professions of deficient means had a just foundation— With two or three exceptions experience has shown this presumption to have been warranted, but not to such an extent as might have been expected— The Value of the 7 first Pollams according to the Estimate forwarded on the 30th January 1800, amounted to 22,700 C. C: their resources as taken upon the Spot have amounted to 22,575 C. C: There are however particular local Considerations explained in my Remarks upon these Several Pollams, which induce me to be of opinion that the aggregate of the permanent Settlement of them should fall very little below the increased Peshcush formerly recommended, and I have no doubt that the Poligars will be able to pay the Summa proposed with Ease to themselves, and Justice to the Inhabitants under them—

In the remarks annexed to the Statements which accompanied my Report to the Board of Revenue of the 30th January 1800, I mentioned that "by the

136

"the assumption of the Desha Cawul the resources of "the Poligars of Woorcaud and Singumpatty were completely "taken away" In that Estimate of the Revenues of those Poligars, the two Villages of their own Names which they have enjoyed at a certain rent, subject to an indefinite Nuzzer, were not included; but in Consideration of their length of possession (about Sixty Years) and of their total want of other Subsistence, Since the resumption of the Cawel, I have now proposed the acknowledgement of their claims to the enjoyment of these Villages upon the full principle of Zemindary Assessment. If you shall approve of this arrangement I would recommend that the accounts of the Villages for the time they have been under assumption be adjusted upon this principle Viz.t two 3.ds of the gross Revenue to the Company, & one to the Poligars, by whom the expenses of Management must also be borne.

Avadiapoor

137

137

Avadiapoor

35 When the Desha Cawul of the Pollams was generally assumed in January 1800 two Hamlets in the possession of the Poligar of Avadiapoor named Pareykolum and Ammanakolum were also assumed, as usurpations from the Circar. Their Ayakut, or reputed measurement in Nunjih is 50 Cottahs Verapaud, from which 25 Cottahs and 117½ Measures of Seed ground were Cultivated in 1800 - deduct for Enams 6 Cottahs and 27 Measures of Verapaud and from the produce of the remainder 19 Cottahs and 90½ measures, the Melwarom came to 166 Cottahs and 40½ measures or 249 Chus. and 3⅝ fanams - add 198 Chucks. for Punjih and Soornadayam, and the aggregate Birez of the two Hamlets may be calculated at C. C. 447 - 7¼ fanams.

36 The final resumption of these Hamlets has always been most earnestly depricated by the Poligar, as the ancient possession of his Family, and as they have remained in their Enjoyment for nearly Sixty years this length of possession added to the unexceptionable Character of Pooley Tawer; the smallness of his Pollam consisting of only three Villages, the

former

138

former affluence of his family and his own present depression incline me to recommend that these two Hamlets of Paraykolum and Ammanakolum be confirmed to him. The Total Summah of his Lands may then be stated at Star Pag.s 2157 " 18 " 10

Deduct 10 ꝑ Cent therefrom for Expences of Management 251 " 31 " 57

Remaining net Summah - - - - - - - - - - 1905 " 28 " 73

Two thirds thereof as a permanent Pishcush would be 1,270 " 19 " 22

The former Pishcush was Star Pagodas - - - - 680 " 7 — "

37 Thus the application of the Zemindary Principle of assessment upon the Turwa of 1,209 Fusley, would augment the Pishcush payable by the Poligar nearly One Hundred ꝑ Cent, but in the consideration of the great change in the Price of Grain since that period and the little capacity of this Pollam for improvement, I beg leave to recommend that the permanent Summah of this Pollam be fixed at 1,000 Star Pagodas, which the Poligar will be able to pay with facility.

Manarcottah

38 The constant irregularity of this Poligar in the payment of his Pishcush, and the Estimates formed of the Value of his resources led to a Suspicion that far too great a Portion of them had been dissipated in his pleasures

His

139 135

His early age, (23) his repeated promises of better conduct, and especially the examples exhibited to him of the destructive consequences of Profligacy and disobedience, called for Forbearance in the early part of the Reform; but his continued failure in his Payments, and uniform assurances of deficient means — accompanied by the tender of his Lands for examination, led to that Investigation of the Resources of Manarcottah which I have now the honor of presenting to the Commission.

39 The value of Manarcottah according to the Estimate transmitted on the 31st January 1800, was Star Ps 3,333 . 14 — This Statement was founded upon the Canongoes accounts, and approached very nearly to the Truth; But some of the resources included in this Pollam by the Canongoe have been since carried back to the Pollam of Colarpattay from whence they were forcibly wrested by the Father of the present Poligar some years ago.—

40 This deduction being made, and regard being also had to the difference in the Price of Grain, and the decayed State of the Tanks, I cannot now Estimate the Summa of Manarcottah exclusive of Enams at a higher Sum than — 2480 . 30 . 27

Deducting from this Sum 10 ℘ Cent for the expences of Management — — — — } 248 . 3 . 2

Remaining net Summa - - - - - 2,232 " 27 " 25

Two thirds of this Sum Star Pagodas 1488 " 18 " 16

140

41 The original Peshcush of this Pollam was so high as Star Pagodas 1411 " 4 " 53 and although the variation of Seasons, and the delay and difficulty of the Poligar in making good this Payment might suggest the inexpediency of any increase, yet when I compare the Capabilities of this Pollam with that of Avadiapoor, and advert to the large Tracts of waste Dry Grain land which may be brought into Cultivation by the exertions of the Poligar I feel no disposition to recommend a greater relaxation from the Zemindary Principle of assessment than the deduction already made of Ten ℔ Cent from the Gross Summa. -

42 If the Commission shall adopt this Proposition in fixing the Permanent Settlement it will be necessary that the Poligar be particularly warned against the hope of future Indulgence, in order to impress fully upon his mind that a Prudent Management of his Estate can alone prevent its ultimate Transfer into more provident Hands - This conviction will I trust Stimulate his attention, and thereby Secure to him the happy possession of his Pollam. -

101

141

Shatoor

The Commission are aware that the office of the Board of Revenue contains a very able record of the resources of this Pollam: The Estimate which Mr. Harris formed of the Value of these Lands was so high as 14,726 C.C. and it was an early object with me after my appointment to institute such enquiries as should enable me to pass an opinion upon Mr. Harris's Report which had been so materially impeached by my Predecessor.—

The enclosed Abstract from Mr. Harris's Estimate will shew to the Commission the Grounds of that Valuation, and of that which I offer as more applicable to the present actual Condition of the Pollam under the Complete change of Circumstances which has since happened, and which must be the basis of every estimate formed of the Value of any Country.—

In Mr. Harris's estimate of the Value of Shatoor the extent of Ground capable of Cultivation is accurately stated, but allowance does not appear to me to have been made in sufficient degree for Variation of Seasons, and the infirm Condition of men and Cattle: the

Produce

142

Produce of the Seed Sown is justly stated: the price of each Cottah is formed upon the solid test of the ten years preceding the formation of Mr Harris's estimate, and would be a Very proper rate if the produce continued as it had theretofore been, and the means of Sale had remained the same - but both have undergone material alteration, and especially the latter: when the produce of grain is increased the price of a given quantity must fall in proportion to that increase; - 13 fanams per Cottah having been the rate of Sale for the years upon which Mr Harris's Estimate is formed is an incontrovertible reason why it should be reduced under the increased Cultivation which has since arisen from the Repair of Tanks, but this is a cause of reduction in the Value of the Shatoor Grain not entitled to so much consideration as the complete change of Circumstances which has since taken place in regard to the Means of Sale. —

The System of Monopoly which had prevailed for so many years in the Sale of grain in the Circar Villages bordering upon Shatoor did not allow Mr Harris to judge what would be the price when the market should be completely opened, — and the Cultivation largely increased as well in the Pollam, as in the Circar Lands. It was a case which was not required, nor was it Possible for him

to

143

to investigate. But when it fell to my lot to form a general arrangement for renting the whole of the Tinnevelly Province, this difficulty was immediately forced upon my consideration. Such of the records of the former Government as had then come under my Examination, did not afford me any information upon which I could rely of the relative fertility of the lands; and the System of embargo upon the Sale of grain, left me no correct means of judging what would be its price, when the Market should be opened, and the Cultivation increased. To ascertain these essential points to every Rent: it became indispensable to reap the Car Crop by Aumany, in order that the information thereby obtained of the quality of the Lands, and the Value of their produce, might be applied with just consideration to the Condition of the Ryots in forming a Rent at a more advanced period of the year: with this Knowledge the price of grain which I fixed upon the produce of the Talook of Shevelpatore, encompassing the Pollam of Shatoor as well as Shevagherry on every Side, was ten fanams per Cottah, and some part of it remains unsold to the present time. it is therefore very evident that an Estimate of the resources of Shatoor which Should Value the grain at 13 fanams per Cottah "must as in the Case of Shevegherry defeat "the Salutary objects of a permanent Settlement by leading "to the ruin of the Pollegar, and the oppression of

the

144

"the People."—

Adverting indeed to the very large proportionate quantity of Nunjeh produced in Shatoor beyond the consumption of its own Inhabitants:— considering also that their means of Subsistence are generally drawn from the Punjeh Lands, and the production of the Hills: and reflecting upon the difficulty of disposing of the produce of Shatoor in the Villages of Shevelpatoor of which I had a personal Knowledge in the last year, I am inclined to make some deduction from the price of grain in Shevelpatore in order that some thing may remain to defray the charges of Bullock hire from Shatoor into the Company's Villages, upon an average 1 Fanam per Cottah appears to me to be a just deduction and Mr. Harris's ~~Statement~~ Estimate admitting its accuracy in every other particular, will appear as in the Statement.

These allowances being made I would recommend to the Commission that two thirds of this estimate, after deducting the 1 tenth for ... be taken the permanent Settlement for the Pollam. in the conviction that it will be found equitable

equitable and Moderate. —

Sapatoor,

49 In submitting to the Commission the measures which appear to me most expedient for the permanent Settle=ment of the lands of this Pollam it may be useful to take a short retrospect of its past management. —

50 — In the Fusly 1205. Mr Powney represented to the Board of Revenue the misconduct of Cawmia Naigue Poligar of Sapatoor for withholding his tribute and other irregularities, and was instructed to dispossess the Poligar of his Pollam and retain it under his own immediate Manag=ment. In consequence of this resolution Cawmia Naigue established himself in the neighbouring Mountains, and completely intimidating the inhabitants of the Pollam, and the public Servants in charge of it, distracted the manage=ment, and participated in its revenues. —

51. Such was the state of this Country when I received charge of it in 1799, and as it was obvious that the Surrender or seizure of the Poligar was indespensable to the security of a future revenue from the Pollam, and the return of tranquility to its long harrassed inhabitants, I took an early occasion of requesting the instructions of Government which of the two I should attempt to accomplish and by what means. At that period I had reason to believe that Cawmia Naigue would

146

Would resign himself to the mercy of Government, if he were assured of personal protection and a small subsistence; but such a compromise, after the Commission of so many enormities and after the public resentment had been so frequently declared against him might, I apprehended, shake that opinion of the force and Energy of Government which in these Countries it should ever be the primary Object to maintain. Upon this principle I was of opinion that no overtures to a reconcilement with Cawmia Naigue ought to be made, or received, nor any of his family be put in Possession, for the restoration of the Pollam, after the circumstances which had occurred, would be solely imputed to inability of maintaining it.—

52 Upon these grounds I recommended the offer of reward for his person which was approved, and in July 1800, I had the satisfaction of seizing him. Charges were subsequently given against the Prisoner before the Board of officers appointed by His Lordship in Council to try him, and in the Month of October 1800, he was condemned and capitally punished. From that period the Pollam has remained in tranquility, and its management has been comparatively advantageous; but many of the principal inhabitants who fled into other Countries during former distractions, from the equal terror of the Poligars vengeance if they did not submit to it, or of Public punishment if they conciliated it, feel no particular

attachment

147

attachment to return, and hence the lands of that Pollam cann[ot]
be expected to regain that high state of cultivation which
they enjoyed under Cawmia Naig's Father, whose good
qualities where as well known as the vices of the Son. —

53 Adverting to the [redacted] examples which
have been exhibited to the Poligars in general during the
last two years, I have no longer that fear which I formerly
professed lest the acknowledgement of any part of the Poligars
family should be imputed to erroneous motives; and
considering the singular unhealthfulness of the Lands of
that Pollam, its mountainous situation, its peculiar
disadvantages for Aumanee management, and the disper-
-sion of many of the principal Inhabitants who as much
respect the memory of Cawmia Naigs Father, as they execrate
that of the late Poligar himself, I am of opinion that the
re-establishment of the Pollam upon a Zemindary tenure is an exped-
-ent measure —

54 The father of the late Cawmia Naigue had
three Wives by each of whom he had one Son — the eldest
Cawmia Naig has been executed — the Second, Warra
Cawmia Naig, is about twenty years old and enjoys
a pension from the Company — the third Taddy Cawmia Naig
is about 18 years old. —

55 Warra Cawmia Naig enjoying the right of
primogeniture, and having separated his Interest at an
early

early period from the late rebel, has the preferable Claim to the favor of Government, and if the reasons I have stated shall appear to render his appointment expedient, I would recommend in consideration of the great extent of uncultivated Land in the Pollam that full two thirds of the gross Revenues received by the Company during their management of it, a long period of distraction and anarchy, be assessed as a permanent tribute –

56 The Cawel and Sayer of this Pollam constituted very near half of its Value as you will observe from the accompanying Statements, and as both will remain in the hands of Government the young Poligar cannot be misled by any over grown resources to improper thoughts of his dependant Condition. –

57 The Sum which upon this principle would be payable by the Poligar of Sapatoor as a permanent Jummah amounts to Star Pagodas 2582, – and I have no doubt the young Poligar who is likely to succeed in bringing back some of the old Inhabitants, would be able to pay it with facility.

I have &c

30 Sept. 1802 (Signed) S. Lushington

Collector

The six Sequestered Pollams of Tinnevelly

58. When the Tinnevelly Poligars were transferred to the Company, an hope was entertained that by establishing a moderate Peshcush, and by the exercise of just measures towards them, their obedience and services would be secured to the State — The rebellious conduct of some, & the licentious Habits of all, soon led to a very different expectation; and in the system adopted to prevent future insurrection, it was not judged expedient to make any exceptions —

59. The increase of Peshcush, the deprivation of Cawul, the interdiction against the future use of those implements, which had been so long regarded by the Poligars with such fond attachment, were extended to all, and the arguments by which it was attempted to reconcile the Poligars to these privations, were by none more strenuously combated

150

combated than by the Poligar of Ettiapoor, upon the ground of that fidelity, which he had ever testified towards the Company. But the mortification he suffered in being treated with the suspicion of a disaffected tributary, had no influence upon his Public conduct, for he paid the Increase of Peishcush with punctuality, and gave no cause for a single complaint against him —

60. Such was the conduct he had observed prior to the Rebellion of Panjalumcoorchy and Shevigunga; during the progress of it, he conducted himself with uniform attachment, manifesting upon every occasion a sincere desire to aid the efforts of our Troops to the utmost of his power — besides the assistance derived from this Poligar in the reduction of the Rebels his example had the most happy influence, upon the other Poligars; and adverting to the Justice and policy of rendering the situation of a tributary, who had thus conducted himself eligible and easy; I proposed to the Board of Revenue, that this Poligar should receive some lasting mark of the Company's approbation.

61. I was the more disposed to this opinion, from the pains which had been taken by the rebellious Murdoos to impress the Poligars of these Countries with an apprehension, that the assurance I had so repeatedly given them of the fixed determination of Government to maintain them in all their just rights and privileges were mere professions, depending upon our convenience and power, and which in consequence of the large

usumptions that had been made from them, during the last two years, they had a temptation to accept. The reward of those who had conducted themselves with fidelity would, I observed, counteract this impression, and tend to establish another more beneficial to the existing state of affairs, and more favorable to the permanent interests of the Company.

62. From these considerations I took the liberty of submitting the propriety of transferring to the Polijar of Ettiapoor, upon a reasonable Jumma; the Lands of Panjalamcoorchy immediately bordering upon Ettiapoor. And from similar motives I recommended the grant of the two Southern Mugams to the Polijar of Maniachy, and those of Cundulgoody and Colatoor to the Polijar of Mailmondel.

63. This plan of dividing the lands of the rebellious Polijars amongst those who had manifested attachment and allegiance during the troubles in the southern Provinces, was recommended by the Board of Revenue and approved by Government. The Board were however of opinion that the Country would have sufficiently recovered after a period of three Years to admit of a permanent Increase of about one sixth in the Jumma at first proposed to be settled for these Lands, and in compliance with these instructions the Allegances were tendered & received by the Polijars upon those Terms. I however very soon discovered that they really regarded the Arrangement, not as one of benefit to themselves, in remuneration of the services they had performed, but as a measure of expediency

152

suited to the convenience of the Company —

64. If I thought that these impressions proceeded from an avaricious disposition in these Poligars or an arrogant Estimate of the services they had rendered no person would be less disposed than myself to countenance them — But I have seen the Havoc occasioned by the Sword, and by the devastation of contending Armies in droves throughout these Villages; — And I know also that many of the Inhabitants who settled themselves to their satisfaction in the Circar Lands at that period, are never likely to return to their original Villages.

Hence a much longer period than three Years must elapse before the Lands proposed to be given up to the Poligars of Ettiapoor, Mailmundeh and Manciachy can regain their former Value —

65. The two principal objects of mine hitherto were that the Poligars in general might have an Instance constantly to refer to, of the disposition of the Company to reward fidelity, and Service; and that the condition of those who had their claims upon us, might be enviable and happy; the Jumma which in my judgement will secure these important points exceeds the Peishcush formerly received from the Poligars of these Pollams no less than 105 P. Cent. exclusive of Lawful Resumptions and they have to recommend it to the Commissioner for their adoption

153 151

66. In my first plan for the division of the Magauns of Panjalumcoorchy I proposed the transfer of Poodiempotoor to the Poligar of Maniachy, and of Carcoorchy to the Poligar of Eteiapoor: but having ascertained that several of the Villages of Carcoorchy are closely intermixed with those of Maniachy, I apprehend that the Management of them by the Poligar of Eteiapoor might become a Source of future discontent, and litigation — I beg leave therefore to suggest that Carcoorchy be given up in perpetuity to the Poligar of Maniachy, and that Poodiempotoor which is mixed with the lands of Eteiapoor be transferred in lieu thereof to the Poligar of that Pollam — As the two Poligars have no particular objection to this Transfer, I have assigned them accordingly, and have made the necessary alterations in the accompanying Statement for the Permanent Settlement of those Lands which will I hope receive the approbation of the Commission —

67. In the three sequestered Pollams of Naglapoor, Yellarumpunny and Colarputty the proportion of dry Grain Lands is very large, and the improvements of which the Tanks are capable not very considerable; the Produce and capability of the Lands have been correctly ascertained during the three Years of the Company's Management and the Teerwa, & Teerbuddy Shewn in the accompanying Statements

154

in Abstract, will afford to the Commission the detailed information relating thereto.

68. From the Gross Jamma realized by the Company, I have made a deduction of 25 p^r. Cent and recommend that the Residue be declared the permanent Assessment upon Lands; such a Settlement will produce to the Company p^r Cent above the Peshcush formerly paid by the Poligars; and it provides for the Ease and happiness of the Cultivators of the Soil which should be the paramount consideration of a Permanent Settlement. But in Order that this deduction from the Gross Jamma may reach those whom it is intended to relieve, I beg particularly to recommend that the rates of Tax upon the dry grain Lands which I originally recommended for Colatoor in my Report of the 29th December 1800 may be adopted throughout these Pollams Viz^t for every Kire of Punjeh Land being a Square of 145 Yards.

of Kurshal Land	Veppul K. F.	Puttul K. F.	Shewul K. F.
6. 3: 2	2: 3	1: 9	1 1

The Establishment of these rates will diffuse Comfort through every Cottage in those Pollams, and will not discourage the principal Natives from purchasing the villages, for the expectation of bringing large tracts of excellent though uncultivated Land into Fertility, together with the proposed deduction from the Gross Jamma, will make those Lands a desireable acquisition to Many of the better condition

Inhabitants

Inhabitants. In the accompanying Statements I have divided them into such Portions as appear to me to conform with the original Instructions for the Sale of the Havelly Lands and I recommend that offers for the Purchase of these Lots be invited accordingly.—

Collumcondum

69. By the assumption of the Cawul this Poligars means of Subsistence were brought within such narrow limits, that it became necessary to relinquish the small — Tribute previously received from him; and his Lordship was also pleased in consideration of his Poverty and numerous Family to confer upon him four small Tanks and the little spots of Nunjeh watered from them free of Rent, as a Means of ~~subsistence~~ living. — A Sunnud will therefore be necessary for his enjoyment of these Lands in Perpetuity, and his Name is inserted in the List of Poligars for this purpose.—

Conclusion—

70. In closing my Report upon this important Subject it can scarcely be necessary to urge as the — Motive of any apparent prolixity my anxiety to satisfy the Commission upon every doubtful point: indeed I now only desist in the belief that nothing material for their information has been omitted— The Subject is indeed of so much consequence, and so important has been the share allotted to me in Eradicating those accumulated Evils, which distracted the Poligar Countries at the time I received

152
156

I received charge of them, that the detail of it might be swelled to any Extent. – But I shall however conclude it for the present by declaring, and I do so with that Confidence which an eventful Superintendance of the Company's Interests in those Districts for nearly four years, is calculated to impart, that nothing appears to me to be now wanting to consolidate the foundations of Internal Order and Peace, but the Establishment of the Settlement herein recommended, the abolition of the Customs, and the Regulation of the Police. By the Energy of Government the Rebellious have been subdued; the oppressed have been upheld and exalted; the Obedient have been liberally Rewarded; and the extinction of a divided Authority has restored the finest Province of the Carnatic from a State of Anarchy and Misery to a State of Subordination and Prosperity – To this complete Revolution of affairs the Company owe the solid and permanent advantages of the Settlement Now recommended of which the Extent is shewn distinctly in the accompanying Statement; and I trust that his Lordship in Council may consider them so ample as not to deny himself the happiness of abolishing the extraordinary contrivances by which the Customs are now Collected to the inconceivable distress of the People, and of appropriating the Current Receipts to a Vigorous System of Police, upon which all the promised Success of a Permanent Settlement in Tinnevelly must finally depend. –

I have the honor to be with Respect &c.

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